SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR INTEGRATING PROJECTS EVENTS WITH PERSONAL CALENDAR AND SCHEDULING CLIENTS

Background of the Invention

Technical Field of the Invention

This invention relates to calendar and scheduling. More particularly, it relates to integrating project events with personal calendar and scheduling clients.

Background Art

A problem in the art relating to calendar and scheduling (C&S) applications is the repetitive visitation of different place calendars required in order to keep track of calendar events throughout different projects or places

The same problem has been identified by others, but their solution has been to develop procedures which require the user to download/upload and synchronize the events into/from their calendars. Examples: Yahoo calendaring (www.yahoo.com), Palm Pilot calendaring (www.mypalm.com). However, none of these have developed a seamless integration where the project events are received in the same manner as when a colleague invites a person to a meeting within the organization's information infrastructure (as is done with email and C&S applications such as Notes/Domino, Outlook/Exchange).

There is a need in the art for a different solution, one where once a user has subscribed to a Place calendar there is no need for the user to synchronize or download any calendar event information. The user automatically receives calendar invitations through email in the same manner as when receiving other meeting invitations.

It is known for projects, such as those managed by an IBM® Lotus® QuickPlace® server, to create e-mails about content. However, there is a need for a system and method

for formatting such events in a project calendar as Notes 5 meetings, Notes 6 meetings, Outlook events, and any icalendar enabled client.

Icalendar is an open standard calendaring protocol. (See RFC 2445.) According to that protocol, the following fields are specified for sharing information among calendar & scheduling (C&S) programs:

STARTTIME:
ENDTIME:
DURATION:
LOCATION:
ATTENDEES
SUBJECT
CHAIR
LANGUAGE
...

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Objects and Summary of the Invention

It is an object of the invention to provide an improved system and method for integrating project calendar events to a user calendar.

In accordance with a preferred embodiment of the invention, a method is provided for integrating project events with personal calendar and scheduling clients, by establishing a project calendar; establishing a personal calendar for a member of the project; receiving into a member profile indicia indicative of whether to send events published on the project calendar to the personal calendar; receiving into the member

profile indicia indicative of a calendar and scheduling format used by the member for the personal calendar; and responsive to creation of an event in the project calendar, forwarding the event to the personal calendar of the member in that format.

A system for integrating project events with personal calendar and scheduling clients, includes a first server including a place database having a member profiles database and an events database; a place server, and an email transport facility including an email application; a client including a calendar and scheduling program; the member profiles database being responsive to member input for storing member subscriptions to the calendar and scheduling program; the place server responsive to said email transport facility receiving a create, update, or delete event from a member of the place database for creating in the events database a project event; the place server responsive to a create, update, or delete event for determining from the member profiles database those members subscribing to each of a plurality of calendar and scheduling programs; said place server further for sending to each member subscribing to a calendar and scheduling program an email notification of the project event personalized to the calendar and scheduling program to which the member has subscribed.

In accordance with an aspect of the invention, there is provided a computer program product configured to be operable to integrating project events with personal calendar and scheduling clients.

Other features and advantages of this invention will become apparent from the following detailed description of the presently preferred embodiment of the invention, taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings.

Brief Description of the Drawings

Figure 1 is a high level system diagram illustrating a typical system configuration in accordance with the preferred embodiment of the invention.

Figure 2 is a high level system diagram illustrating a typical multi-server system environment.

Figure 3 is a diagrammatic view of a Place page with a table of contents entry for "Calendar Integration".

Figure 4 is a diagrammatic view of a QuickPlace member information page with an option for subscribing to calendar messages and specifying type of calendar.

Figure 5 is a diagrammatic view of a QuickPlace send to subscribers checkbox on a calendar field.

Figure 6 is a high level system diagram illustrating the preferred embodiment of the invention for integrating project events with personal calendar and scheduling clients.

Figure 7 is a flow chart illustrating an exemplary embodiment of the method of the invention for integrating project events with personal calendar and scheduling clients.

Best Mode for Carrying Out the Invention

In accordance with the preferred embodiments of the invention, a system and method is provided for displaying place calendar events in a users primary calendar tool. By centralizing place calendar events in a user's primary calendar tool, the user is required to visit only one calendar to see all events of relevance.

In accordance with the preferred embodiments of the invention, members of a collaboration space, such as QuickPlace, receive calendar pages created in QuickPlace into their own calendaring and scheduling (C&S) calendar. This enables integration of, for example, Lotus Notes 5.x and 6.0, Microsoft Outlook 98® and above, and any icalendar standard enabled C&S client.

Referring to Figures 1 and 2, a system environment of interest includes QuickPlaces 114, 132, 134, 136, in a multi-server system environment, including service 100/server 101, 122/123, 124/125, and 126/127, communications link 97, one or more client terminals, such as user browsers 99, and a database including, for example, a catalog 120, such as a QuickPlace catalog, for aggregating information about projects.

Throughout this specification, the generic term "project" and more specific terms "place" or "QuickPlace" are used substantially interchangeably. Place and QuickPlace are specific examples of projects. Similarly, "host catalog" and "QuickPlace catalog" are substantially equivalent terms.

The functionality available to each user via remote terminals 99 may be customized in accordance with the needs and authorization of the user and/or entity. Terminals 99 may access the system using, for example, browser software technology or other electronic accessing methods known to one of skill in the art. Reports and other information displayed to the end user at terminal 99 may be displayed using known web page formatting techniques.

Communication link 97 links remote terminals 99 to server 101. Link 97 may be a hardwired link, such as a telephone line, coaxial cable, digital data line, or the like, or a wireless link such as a radio frequency or infrared communications link, or the like.

As illustrated in Figure 1, a QuickPlace service 100 represents a group a servers that are able to communicate with each other through a network, and work together to provide function (such as project creation, search across projects and servers, and get aggregate views across all servers and projects).

Referring to Figure 2, this service may be implemented in an abstract sense, in that each server 101, 123, 125, 127 implements a notion of service 100, 122, 124, 126,

respectively, which in this sense is a multi-server deployment of QuickPlace servers that can be treated as a consistent unit of service for administration and in the user interface.

A QuickPlace service 100 comprises multiple QuickPlace servers 101 and/or QuickPlace clusters, which: (1) are in the same IBM® Lotus® Domino™ domain; (2) share the same user directory and authentication system; (3) are on the same user network (i.e., are not separated by a firewall); and (4) are administered by the same administration team. These constraints are enough to ensure across the service that: (1) servers 101 can be configured consistently; (2) servers 101 can communicate and share data with each other; (3) user identities are in the same name space and do not collide; and (4) single sign on authentication can be implemented.

Referring to Figure 3, a place display window 177 includes a table of contents (TOC) sidebar 178 in which appears a My Places button 186 and a TOC selection entry for calendar integration, selection of which enables the user to select calendar options or preferences relating to the calendar.

A QuickPlace calendar event is any page in QuickPlace that contains the QuickPlace calendar control.

Referring to Figure 4, users select whether to send events published on this place's calendar to their personal calendar, and specify what calendar and scheduling (C&S) program they use from drop down list 718 when they are editing their member profile information 716. This list 718 can contain any of several C&S formats, including Notes 5, Notes 6, MS Outlook, iCalendar, plain-text. Which formats are shown in the above list 718 is controlled through a setting in the XML configuration file for the QuickPlace server 101 (qpconfig.xml).

Referring to Figure 5, a calendar information field 712 includes a send event to calendar subscribers checkbox 714 for use by a user when scheduling a QuickPlace event.

Referring to Figure 6, a preferred embodiment of the client/server system of the invention includes on the system side a Domino Server 640 and a place database 630, which includes a member profiles database 672 and an events database 674. Server 640 includes a QuickPlace server 101 and an email transport facility 676 which includes a QuickPlace calendar and scheduling events store. On the client side, browser or QuickPlace client 99 includes an email application and a calendar and scheduling program.

In operation, a user at client 99 can specify that an event that is saved in this QuickPlace 101, for example, is to be sent to users who have set their member profile to receive calendar events from this QuickPlace 101 in their calendar and scheduling client.

User actions which will cause other users to receive an event notification are create, update, and delete events at the server 640. The event 674 to be calendared is created in the place itself. The user of the place subscribes in profile 672 to the calendar, and specifies the type of calendar he uses. The event 678 sent from server 101 by email transport 676 can then be personalized to the user selected C&S application 682 as an attachment to email 680, such as in Notes format or icalendar format.

When an event 678 is created in server 640, it checks the member profile 672 to see who has subscribed to receive calendar event 674. For each member who has subscribed, it checks for calendar program type, and then generates the appropriate format e-mail for distribution to each set of users (a set each for those who have requested Notes 5, Notes 6 or iCalendar format).

Referring to Figure 7, in accordance with an exemplary embodiment of the invention, in step 684 an event 678 is created, updated, or moved. Server 101 responds by checking in step 686 if calendar integration is enabled at the server level, in step 688 if it is enabled at the place level, and in step 690 if it is enabled at the room level. If not, at any of these levels, calendar integration ends in step 710. If enabled at all these levels, server 101 in step 692 checks member profiles 672 for calendar subscriptions and in step 694

generates for those members subscribing to Notes 5 an attachment in Notes 5 format, in step 696 generates for those members subscribing to Notes 6 at attachment in Notes 6 format, and in step 698 generates for those members subscribing to iCalendar events an attachment in iCalendar format. In step 700 these attachments are attached to email notes 702 which in steps 704, 706 and 708 are sent via network 97 to respective Notes 5, Notes 6, and iCalendar users.

Thus, there are three levels of calendar integration: whole server, place by place, and room by room. These are all saved in the .nsf files.

QuickPlace (QP) members control whether or not to receive calendar events by subscribing to the calendar events in the same manner as they subscribe to receive "what's new" mail. Thus, the QP member controls whether to receive events or not.

QuickPlace managers can enable or disable various degrees of granularity, as follows:

1. Enable or disable calendar integration entirely in a QuickPlace server via an administration scene of the QP server 101, or

2. Enable or disable calendar integration entirely for a specific QuickPlace(s) via a QuickPlace change-basics option, or

3. Enable or disable calendar integration for a specific room's calendar, via the calendar folder options.

In addition, a room manager can control whether pages that contain the calendar control (a.k.a. calendar pages) in a room are always sent to the members who have subscribed, or the author of the page chooses whether or not the page is sent to subscribers, or the calendar pages in the room are never sent as calendar events to the subscribers.

A QuickPlace notify feature sends a text email containing information about the page's location, description, and so forth. The send calendar event option sends a calendar event formatted email 704-708 which is integrated at the browser with C&S calendar 682.

QuickPlace calendar events 678 are integrated with the C&S client 682 once the event reaches client 99 in the following ways.

1. To Lotus Notes subscribers, the email 704 or 706 contains the calendar event 678 information encoded into Lotus Notes document fields carried in SMTP x- header fields. These fields are interpreted by the Lotus Notes C&S client 682 template and processed according to the template rules, thereby becoming a Notes Meeting invitation.

2. To Microsoft Outlook subscribers, the email 708 contains an icalendar-standard attachment file that contains the calendar information for the event 678 in the QuickPlace. This icalendar attachment is imported into the user's calendar by C&S program 682. For Microsoft Outlook the attachment 698 in email 708 can be dragged-and-dropped into the Outlook calendar or opened and accepted by double clicking the attachment.

3. To users of other icalendar-standard C&S clients, the email is the same as for Microsoft Outlook. The email contains an icalendar file attachment which can be imported into the C&S calendar as dictated by the client.

Calendar integration supports one-way workflow. This means that in order to propagate changes (time, or date, or cancel) done to an event 674 that was originally created in QuickPlace, the event can only be updated or canceled through the QuickPlace 101 itself. In other words, the time of the event in a C&S calendar client 99 cannot be changed and expect the QuickPlace event 674 to be updated from the client.

A member of a place subscribes to the calendar(s) of a place through a member profile 672.

For events 678 formatted for Lotus Notes Calendar clients, QuickPlace 101 creates an email note 702 and adds the fields set forth in Table 1 to the note in order for the Lotus Notes Calendar client C&S program 682 to process the email as a calendar event:

TABLE 1 EMAIL FIELDS FOR LOTUS NOTES C&S CLIENTS

Legend: N/U/C = item present in type of notice.
N = new
U = updated (rescheduled)
C = cancellation

Item Name		Date Type	Event Type	Purpose
Tracking related note items:				
CTrack		text	N/U/C	revision tracking
CVersion	text		N/U/C	Notes client use
CFlags		text	U/C	Notes client use
ApptUNID		text	N/U/C	event UNID in Place
SequenceNum	text		N/U/C	number of event changes
$RefOptions	text		U/C	Notes client use
$Ref		RefList	U/C	Event NID in client

Content related note items:

AppointmentType	text	N/U/C	event type	
NoticeType	text	N/U/C	notice action	
Form	text	N/U/C	form to use in client	
Topic	text	N/U/C	event topic	
Subject	text	N/U/C	email subject	
_ViewIcon	number	N/U/C	icon to display in client	
Logo	text	N	logo to display in client	

Timestamp and date related not items:

StartDateTime	text	N/U/C	start timestamp	
StartDate	text	N/U/C	start timestamp	
StartTime	text	N	start timestamp	
EndDateTime	text	N/U/C	end timestamp	
EndDate	text	N	end timestamp	
EndTime	text	N	end timestamp	
WebDateTimeInit	text	N	for client use	
WebCategory	text	N	for client use	
$WebFlags	text	N	for client use	

People related note items:

Chair	text	N/U/C	chair
AltChair	text	N/U/C	alternate chair
$LangChair	text	N/U/C	chair language
$NameLanguageTags	text	N	name tags language
Principal	text	N/U/C	principal
$AltPrincipal	text	N/U/C	alternate principal
$LangPrincipal	text	N/U/C	principal language
RequiredAttendees	textlist	N/U/C	
AltRequiredNames	textlist	N/U/C	
INetRequiredNames	textlist	N/U/C	

StorageRequiredNames	text	N/U/C	for client use
$ExpandGroups	text	N/U/C	for client use

Mail related note items:

MailFirstPass	text	N/U/C	for client use
MailOptions	text	N	for client use
OrgConfidential	text	N	for client use
$PublicAccess	text	N/U/C	for client use
$SMTPKeepNotesItem	text	N/U/C	SMTP x-header fields

Template related note items:

tmpNoActionBar	text	N	notes template use
tmpOEMClient	text	N	notes template use
tmpOwnerHW	text	N	notes template use

Table 2 sets forth items created and populated by the Notes client mail process when creating a regular mail note or a calendar note. These items are inspected at server 101 by trapping the note at the mail.box by quitting the nrouter server process (not shown). This is needed when the mail process 676 is not designed to send, for example, Lotus Notes specific mail notes to Lotus Notes mail clients, but rather is designed to send regular email without knowledge that a mail client will receive the mail note at the other end.

TABLE 2 ITEMS CREATED AND POPULATED BY CLIENT

Legend: N/U/C = item present in type of notice.
N = new
U = updated (rescheduled)
C = cancellation

Item Name	Date Type	Event Type	Purpose
Principal	text	N/U/C	CN of the principal
$AltPrincipal	text	N/U/C	
$LangPrincipal	text	N/U/C	
$Mailer	text	N	Lotus Notes Build
$StorageTo	text	N	
Encrypt	text	N/U/C	
INetCopyTo	text	N	
INetBlindCopyTo	text	N	
INetSendTo	text	N	
Logo	text	N	
Sign	text	N	

Table 3 sets forth items created and populated by the QP 101 mail process for email notes. These items do not need to be populated by the server 101 mail process for calendar event notes (except where noted by *).

TABLE 3 ITEMS CREATED AND POPULATED BY QP MAIL PROCESS

Legend: N/U/C = item present in type of notice.
N = new
U = updated (rescheduled)
C = cancellation

Item Name	Date Type	Event Type	Purpose
$MessageID	text	N/U/C	
$UpdatedBy	list	N/U/C	
BlindCopyTo	text	N	
CopyTo	text	N	
Body	composit	N/U/C	
*Form	text	N/U/C	Reset to "Notice"
From	text	N/U/C	
PostedDate	timedate	N/U/C	
Recipients	text	N/U/C	
*Subject	text	N/U/C	N=invitation U=reschedule] C=cancelled

Calendar integration enables QuickPlace members to use their Outlook or Notes calendaring client to track calendar events that are published to QuickPlace. User are able to choose to automatically receive notifications for all calendar events published to a given QuickPlace, with updates as needed. Authors are also able to manually send a calendar notification for a specified event to any QuickPlace members. Various configuration options are provided to enable server administrators, room managers, and QuickPlace members to control whether and how notifications are sent.

In accordance with an exemplary embodiment of the invention, users using the calendar integration features, are able to:

1) Receive calendar notifications using the following mail clients: Lotus Notes/Domino R5 and above; Microsoft Outlook 98 and above. A "calendar event" is defined as any form that is shown on the room calendar. This includes built-in calendar event forms, simple forms that use the calendar control, and HTML forms that include the fields necessary to be shown on the room calendar. The calendar notification includes the subject, calendar information (time, duration, repeats, etc.), description, other custom fields on the page, and the URL of the corresponding page in the QuickPlace. (For example, with scheduled Sametime meetings, the custom field that renders the URL of the Sametime meeting is included in the message.)

2) Set an option in each QuickPlace to receive calendar notifications any time a new page is published to any calendar in the QuickPlace, or deleted from any calendar in the QuickPlace.

3) Have author control over sending event notifications when editing a calendar page (since some edits will not merit sending an update to subscribers).

4) Request a batch of notifications corresponding to the currently published future events shown on any selected individual calendar in the QuickPlace, in order to update the user's calendar when joining a QuickPlace in mid-flow.

5) Send an individual calendar notification via the Notify action (or Publish As->Notify) for a page shown on any calendar in the QuickPlace. For members who have a stated calendar type, the notification is formatted accordingly, otherwise the regular ASCII notification is be sent.

Other facilities provided include:

1) Managers are able to disable all automatic calendar notifications in a given room. E.g., in each calendar's "Folder Options" settings.

2) The membership management API provides a parameter for setting the user's calendar notification preferences.

3) The server administrator has an option to disable all automatic calendar notifications on the server. (E.g., to support clustering.) A Domino cluster is a group of two to six servers that provide users with constant access to data, balances the workload between servers, improves server performance, and maintains performance when the size of an enterprise increases. The servers in a cluster contain replicas of databases that are to be readily available to users at all times. If a user tries to access a database on a cluster server that is unavailable, Domino opens a replica of that database on a different cluster server, if a replica is available. Domino continuously synchronizes databases so that whichever replica a user opens, the information is always identical. Clusters provide high availability of important databases, and clustered servers can redirect database open requests to other servers in the clusters, allowing users uninterrupted access to their databases. Clustering is used to provide high availability of a QuickPlace service 100, 122, 124, 126, or group of servers 101, 123, 125, 127. Servers in a cluster are administered by adding, removing, or upgrading them.

4) An option may be provided on custom forms to disable automatic calendar notifications for pages based on the form.

5) An option may be provided for the server administrator to set the default calendar type preference for users on a given QuickPlace server 101. For example, on an intranet server for a company that uses Notes R5 for mail and calendaring, the administrator may all users to automatically set their calendar type to Notes R5.

Options on member information page 716 to subscribe to calendar messages and specify type of calendar may include the following:

1) Calendar integration is presented as a subscription service.

2) Individual members can subscribe to receive events that are published in the place on their personal calendars by setting a preference on the Member Information page.

3) Not available to group members since no preference mechanism is supported for these users.

4) The user is required to specify his/her calendar type 718, in order to assure successful formatting of events for the calendar.

For Send to Subscribers checkbox 714 on the calendar field 712:

1) When an author creates or edits a calendar page (any page that includes the QuickPlace calendar field group), a checkbox is presented that enables the author to determine whether or not publishing the page should cause the event to be sent to subscribers' calendars. For new pages, the checkbox is checked by default.

2) The subscription mechanism respects access controls. Only those people who have access to a calendar event are ever be sent the event.

When modifying an existing calendar event, updates are sent if the checkbox 714 is checked. The behavior of the checkbox 714 is:

* Unchecked by default
* If author changes the date/time settings, checkbox becomes checked
* Author can check/uncheck any time before publishing

A JavaScript alert may be presented to the user when deleting a calendar event to confirm sending a cancellation notice before it is sent.

Because users may join a place, or change their subscription options, after the calendar has been populated, a synchronization of existing events is provided, as follows:

1) A "Send To My Calendar" action may be displayed on individual pages. This enables users to cherry-pick events to add to his/her personal calendar. When clicked, a confirmation animation is displayed, then the same page reloads.

2) A "Synchronize With My Calendar" action may be displayed on each calendar in a place. This presents a scene that enables users to specify the number of days/weeks to receive event updates for.

Calendar subscriptions work independently of any existing author-initiated Notify feature that can be triggered from a Notify skin component or through Publish As-Notify. If an author wishes, he/she can send a notification to all or a subset of members, as well as triggering the

calendar subscriptions. Notifications sent to calendar pages are simple email messages containing a text message and a link to the page, as has been done in the prior art.

To support security, the calendar integration facility of the present invention recognizes access levels, as follows:

1) The calendar integration feature is available to readers, authors and managers who are individual members of a place. Events are only sent to users who have reader or higher access to the event page in the place. "Having access" does not include the case where the user technically is in the room and page ACL, but cannot enter the room because the user is not in a parent room's ACL.

2) The calendar integration feature is not available to anonymous users, or members of external groups, nor enabled for Superusers.

Calendar integration can be customized to different scopes, as follows:

1) Each calendar in a place can be customized to enable/disable automatic notifications for events posted to that calendar. This enables managers/PlaceType designers to limit subscriptions to high-value calendars. For example, an out-of-office calendar might be disabled, whereas an online meeting calendar might be enabled.

2) Custom forms can be customized to enable/disable subscriptions. On a form in which subscriptions are disabled, the subscriber checkbox 714 is hidden in the calendar field group 712.

3) An option may be provided in Basics to enable/disable notifications in the place. If subscriptions are disabled, the entire subscription UI is be hidden in the place.

4) An option may be provided in Server Settings to enable/disable calendar subscriptions. If subscriptions are disabled, the entire subscription UI is hidden in all places on the server.

5) The calendar folder options propagate from a PlaceType to its children.

Alternative Embodiments

It will be appreciated that, although specific embodiments of the invention have been described herein for purposes of illustration, various modifications may be made without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention. In particular, it is within the scope of the invention to provide a computer program product or program element, or a program storage or memory device such as a solid or fluid transmission medium, magnetic or optical wire, tape or disc, or the like, for storing signals readable by a machine, for controlling the operation of a computer according to the method of the invention and/or to structure its components in accordance with the system of the invention.

Further, each step of the method may be executed on any general computer, such as IBM Systems designated as zSeries, iSeries, xSeries, and pSeries, or the like and pursuant to one or more, or a part of one or more, program elements, modules or objects generated from any programming language, such as C++, Java, Pl/1, Fortran or the like. And still further, each said step, or a file or object or the like implementing each said step, may be executed by special purpose hardware or a circuit module designed for that purpose.

Accordingly, the scope of protection of this invention is limited only by the following claims and their equivalents.

CLAIMS

We claim:

1. A method for integrating project events with personal calendar and scheduling clients, comprising:

establishing a project calendar;

establishing a personal calendar for a member of said project;

receiving into a member profile indicia indicative of whether to send events published on said project calendar to said personal calendar;

receiving into said member profile indicia indicative of a calendar and scheduling format used by said member for said personal calendar; and

responsive to creation of an event in said project calendar, forwarding said event to said personal calendar of said member in said format.

2. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

operating a place server for establishing and maintaining said project calendar;

displaying to said member a list of calendar and scheduling program formats for selection of said indicia, said list being controlled through a setting in a configuration file for said place server.

3. The method of claim 2, said configuration file being an XML configuration file.

4. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

receiving from a user scheduling a project event indicia indicative of whether to forward said project event to members subscribing to calendar and scheduling applications.

5. The method of claim 4, further comprising:

forwarding said project event to users who have set their member profile to receive in their calendar and scheduling client calendar events from said project.

6. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

further responsive to creation of said event in said project calendar, determining from said member profile those members subscribing to receive calendar events;

for each said subscribing member, determining from said member profile said format; and

for each said format, generating and distributing email notifications in said format to members subscribing to said format.

7. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

managing calendar integration at whole server, place by place, and room by room levels by forwarding said project event for a room within a place within a server only when calendar integration is enabled with respect to said server, said place, and said room.

8. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

synchronizing project events to personal calendars of members joining a place or changing their subscription options.

9. A method for integrating project events with personal calendar and scheduling clients, comprising:

selectively creating, updating, or moving a project calendar event;

determining if calendar integration is enabled at server level, at place level, and at room level

responsive to calendar integration not being enabled at said server, place and room levels, terminating calendar integration with respect to said project calendar event; otherwise

determining from member calendar subscriptions those members subscribing to each of a plurality of calendar and scheduling formats;

preparing for each said plurality of formats to which at least one member has subscribed an attachment in said format describing said project calendar event; and

sending to each said subscribing member an email notification of said project calendar event including said attachment in said format to which said member has subscribed.

10. The method of claim 9, further comprising:

selectively enabling and disabling calendar integration at said sever level by way of an administration scene of said server;

selectively enabling and disabling calendar integration at said place level by way of an place change-basics option; and

selectively enabling and disabling calendar integration for a calendar of a specific room by way of a calendar folder option.

11. A system for integrating project events with personal calendar and scheduling clients, comprising:

a first server including a place database having a member profiles database and an events database; a place server, and an email transport facility including an email application;

a client including a calendar and scheduling program;

said member profiles database being responsive to member input for storing member subscriptions to said calendar and scheduling program;

said place server responsive to said email transport facility receiving a create, update, or delete event from a member of said place database for creating in said events database for said place database a project event;

said place server responsive to said create, update, or delete event for determining from said member profiles

database those members subscribing to each of a plurality of said calendar and scheduling programs;

said place server further for sending to each member subscribing to a calendar and scheduling program an email notification of said project event personalized to said calendar and scheduling program to which said member has subscribed.

12. A program storage device readable by a machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by a machine to perform method steps for integrating project events with personal calendar and scheduling clients, said method comprising:

establishing a project calendar;

establishing a personal calendar for a member of said project;

receiving into a member profile indicia indicative of whether to send events published on said project calendar to said personal calendar;

receiving into said member profile indicia indicative of a calendar and scheduling format used by said member for said personal calendar; and
responsive to creation of an event in said project calendar, forwarding said event to said personal calendar of said member in said format.

13. The program storage device of claim 12, said method further comprising:

operating a place server for establishing and maintaining said project calendar;

displaying to said member a list of calendar and scheduling program formats for selection of said indicia, said list being controlled through a setting in a configuration file for said place server.

14. The program storage device of claim 13, said configuration file being an XML configuration file.

15. The program storage device of claim 12, said method further comprising:

receiving from a user scheduling a project event indicia indicative of whether to forward said project event to members subscribing to calendar and scheduling applications.

16. The program storage device of claim 15, said method further comprising:

forwarding said project event to users who have set their member profile to receive in their calendar and scheduling client calendar events from said project.

17. The program storage device of claim 12, said method further comprising:

further responsive to creation of said event in said project calendar, determining from said member profile those members subscribing to receive calendar events;

for each said subscribing member, determining from said member profile said format; and

for each said format, generating and distributing email notifications in said format to members subscribing to said format.

18. The program storage device of claim 12, said method further comprising:

managing calendar integration at whole server, place by place, and room by room levels by forwarding said project event for a room within a place within a server only when calendar integration is enabled with respect to said server, said place, and said room.

19. The program storage device of claim 12, said method further comprising:

synchronizing project events to personal calendars of members joining a place or changing their subscription options.

20. A computer program product for integrating project events with personal calendar and scheduling clients according to the method comprising:

establishing a project calendar;

establishing a personal calendar for a member of said project;

receiving into a member profile indicia indicative of whether to send events published on said project calendar to said personal calendar;

receiving into said member profile indicia indicative of a calendar and scheduling format used by said member for said personal calendar; and

responsive to creation of an event in said project calendar, forwarding said event to said personal calendar of said member in said format.