

An Open Source Calendaring System for Higher Education

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Outline

- The calendaring problem
- Our solution
- The project today
- How you can help

We are building an open source calendaring system
for higher education

- It will support public, private and group calendars.
- It will use existing open standards.
- It will support access via the web and other forms of access.
- It will integrate with other systems, particularly *uPortal*.

The Problem

- Too many calendars
 - academic calendar
 - department calendar
 - (multiple) class calendars
 - research group calendar
 - personal calendar
 - calendar for every outside interest
 - other calendars you don't know about

Types of events

- Private: Doctor's appointment at 3:30
- Public: Michael Moore speaks at 3:30
- Group
 - ad hoc: People in this room meet for drinks at 3:30
 - well-known: Department's annual picnic at 3:30
 - resources: Need group laptop, slide projector, and conference room #102 for 3:30 presentation

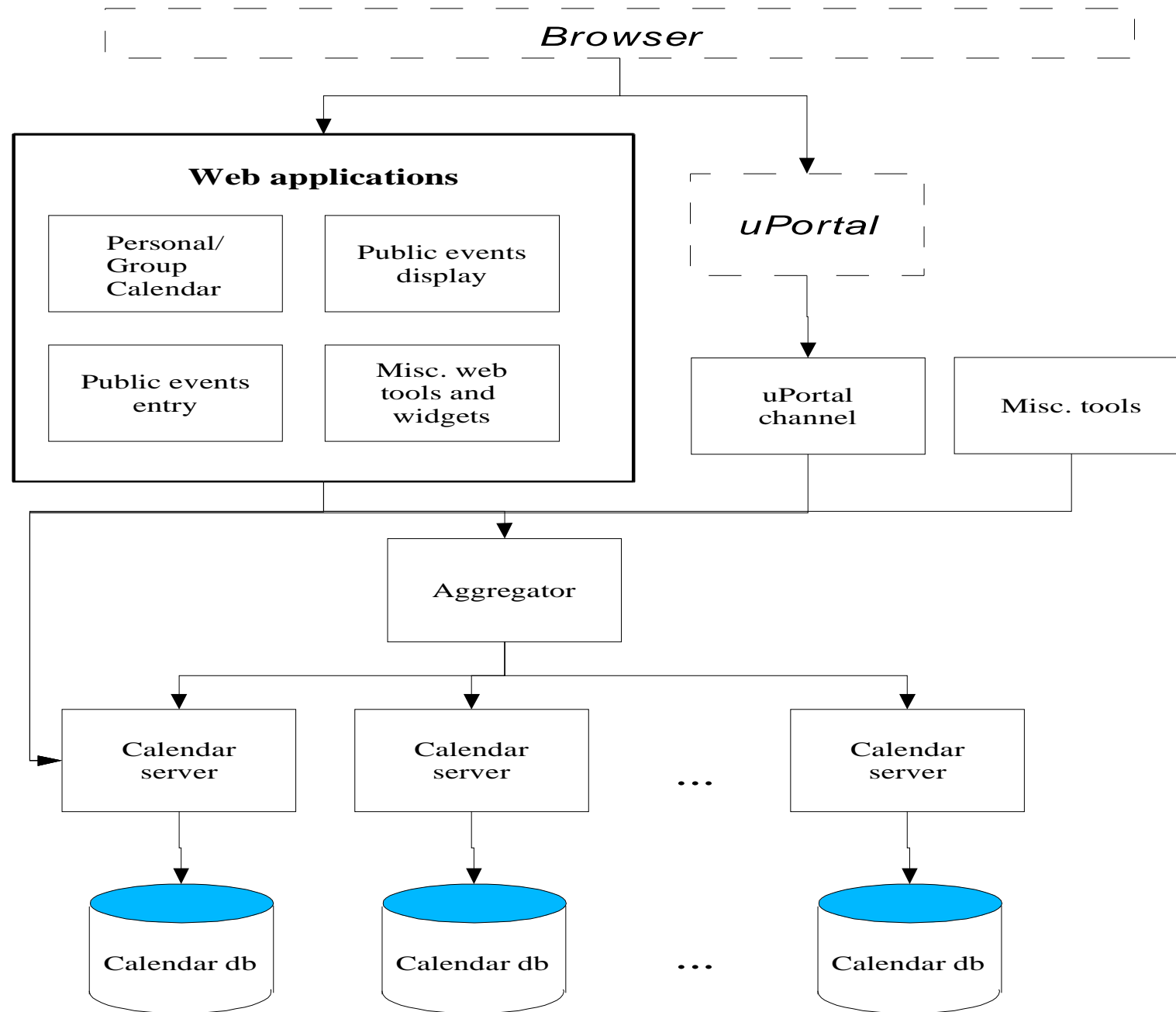
The Solution

- We cannot predict what an institution will need
- An institution might already have a partial solution
- Therefore, we must build a modular system, with many components, including
 - Web applications for all users
 - other specialized user applications (*e.g., Palm synch*)
 - Special applications for privileged users (*e.g., batch import of events, or batch export to a web page*)
- We must also supply programmatic interfaces to allow
 - integration with *uPortal* and other existing systems
 - communication between servers in other institutions
 - construction of new tools by the resourceful

Major components

- Web applications
 - personal calendar
 - public events entry
 - public events display
 - group calendaring (probably combine with personal calendar)
- Aggregator
- Portal view
- small applications
 - create a web page
 - 'subscribe to this calendar'/'add this event to my calendar'
 - Palm/Outlook/etc. synch
 - many more

System Architecture



Interfaces

- Web (for users)
- e-mail (via MIME)
- web services (HTTP)
- Java
- XML, iCalendar, and Java objects

IETF standards (see <http://www.imc.org/ietf-calendar>) for object encoding and communication protocols

The project

- Web site: <http://www.washington.edu/ucal>
 - project description
 - CVS
 - mailing lists
 - Bugzilla
 - quickstart release: all you need is Java

Current status

- current release
 - personal calendar web application (*in production at UW*)
 - an iCalendar server (*beta*)
- real soon
 - public events entry (*in production at UW, UW-centric*)
 - public events display (*beta, but in production at UW anyway*)
 - 'add this to my calendar' (*in production at UW*)
- two person development team, and one of us is on leave
- working with the Mellon Foundation (<http://www.mellon.org>) on a possible grant

Demo

You can help

- Tell us your institution is officially interested
 - "We would use this."
 - "We would use this, if it includes *X*."
 - "We would use this, and we'd love to help."
 - "We would use this, and we'll help do *X*."
- Subscribe to the mailing lists
- Download the quickstart release or CVS code
- try it out
- report bugs
- fix bugs
- add features