



Evolution of the Electronic Calendar: Introducing Social Calendaring

Introduction

- Advent of 'Web 2.0' brings reactive online interfaces that enable social translucence
- 'Game 3.0' advocates user-created content
- Applications are becoming more socially aware
- **How does calendaring fit into this?**

History

- 1979 – Patent granted for electronic calendar
- 1986 – First Groupware application published
 - (WordPerfect Library)
- 1992 – Apple MessagePad released
 - Apple coins the term 'PDA'
- 1998 – iCalendar specification ratified
- 2005 – Upcoming.org launched
 - Online, social event organising

Existing technology

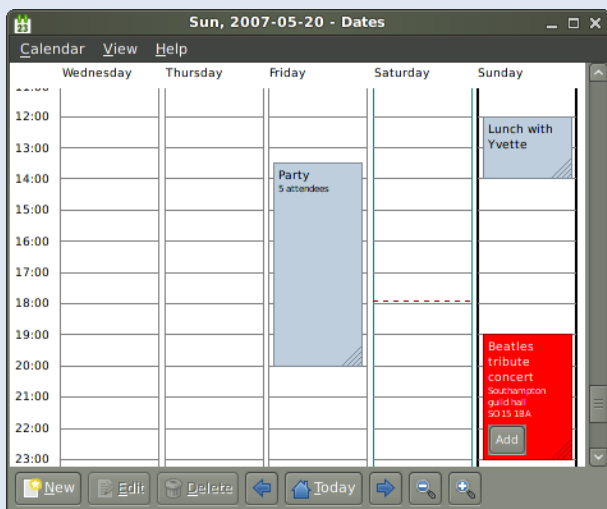
- **Upcoming.org (2005)**
 - Online event organising service that allows organisers to track attendees and users to browse events by location and category
- **30Boxes (2006)**
 - Online calendar that allows sharing of events with friends and integration with other online services (e.g. photo sharing from Flickr)
- **Google Calendar (2006)**
 - Online calendar that allows searching and subscription to public calendars

Proposal (1/2)

- Create a framework of existing technologies to support social translucence and navigation to traditional electronic calendars:
 - iCalendar (extra meta-data fields)
 - Gnutella (peer-to-peer communication)
 - SyncML (synchronisation with mobile devices)
 - OpenSync (synchronisation with online calendars)
- Use agents for smart recommendation of events

Proposal (2/2)

- Modify current interfaces to support new social features
- Where applications can't be modified (closed software), augment with third-party, external applications that hook into storage databases



Summary

- Adding social navigability and translucence to electronic calendars allows for more efficient event-planning and organisation
- These features can be added by creating a framework of existing technologies to layer over current calendar applications
- Future work involves further feasibility study and implementation of the suggested framework.