

Bedework v Identity Services

Gary Schwartz

Communications & Middleware Technologies,

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

Bedework project manager

Advanced CAMP: Identity Services Summit for Higher Ed Open/Community-Source Projects

June 18-19, 2009 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Copyright Michael A. Douglass, Arlen D.H. Johnson and Gary Schwartz 2009. This work is the intellectual property of the author. Permission is granted for this material to be shared for non-commercial, educational purposes, provided that this written permission from the author.







Federated Calendaring



I'm a Bedework-er,

- not a psychiatrist
- not an escalator
- not a bricklayer
- not a mechanic
- not an engineer
- not a coal miner

Or

a Federated Identity expert



Overview of Bedework





What Is Bedework?

- Comprehensive calendaring/events
 - open source, and
 exploits/assumes other OSS Mozilla Lightning, OpenConnector,
 ical4j, CalDAV4j, Hibernate,
 Lucene
 - platform independent (Java)
 - modular & extensible
 - higher education aware

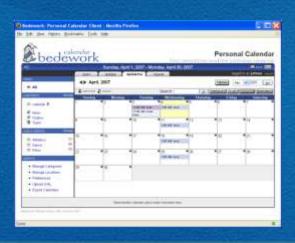
Bedework at this meeting

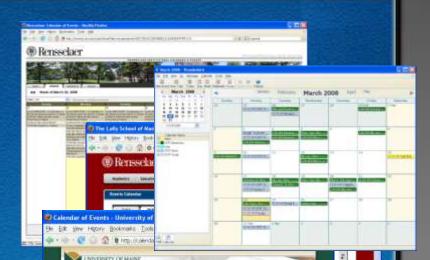
- Brown
- Chicago
- Cornell
- Duke
- Maryland
- RPI
- UBC

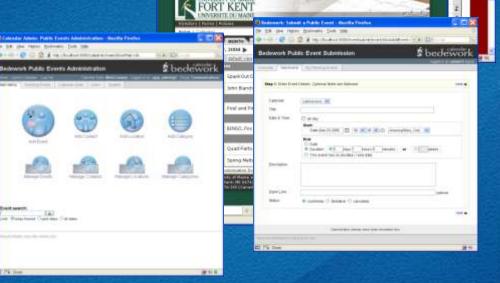


Bedework Components

- Five main components:
 - public suites & data feeds
 - administrative client
 - event submission client
 - personal client
 - CalDAV







bedework

Duke Buzz





"The students said they liked Events@Duke, but they needed something more 'student-friendly' that filtered events relevant to students," said Johnson, who led a student focus group that advised a team of representatives from the Offices of IT, Student Activities, and Undergrad Education. Students came up with the name and categories such as "free food".



Bedework Futures

 Jasig has officially accepted Bedework as an Incubating Project.





Precis

Bedework Project Survey

Features

- public calendar & data feeds
- web-based clients for
 - administration,
 - event submission
 - personal calendaring,
- servers for
 - CalDAV,
 - CardDAV,
 - and Timezones.

Technology Stack

- Java
- Struts
- Hibernate
- Ehcache
- iCal4j
- Lucene
- jQuery
- Xalan-Java
- Apache Commons.



Authentication

Bedework is implemented as fully standard (JSR 154) collection of servlets, and as such relies on the container for authentication



Standards and Interfaces

- Bedework implements interfaces which provide basic LDAP support to obtain principal group information and principal attributes.
- Shibbolized instances of Bedework have been deployed, but there are compatibility issues with CalDAV and Shibboleth.



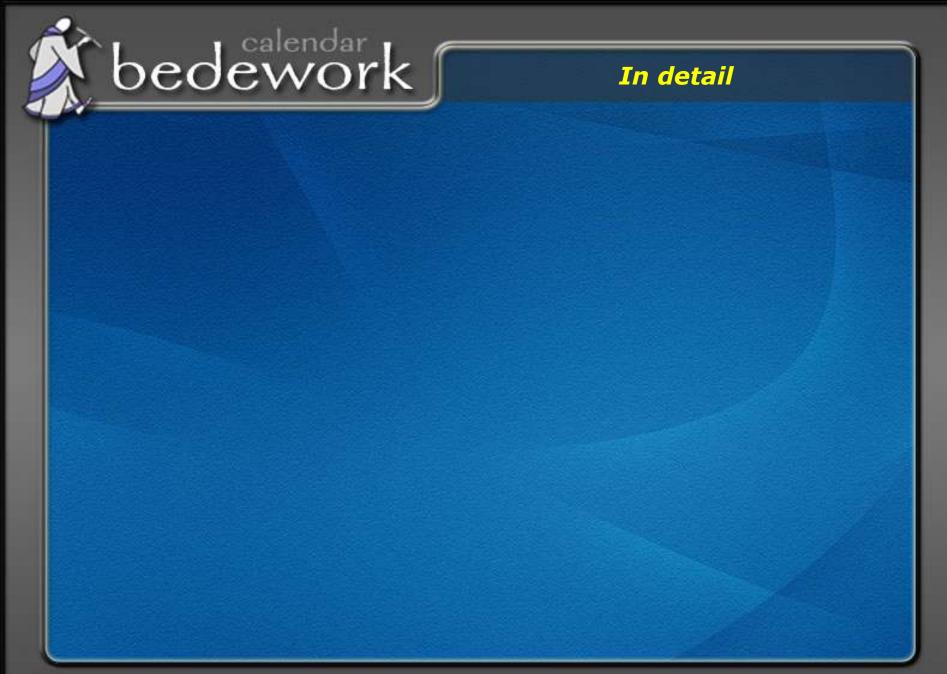
Issues and Challenges

- Authorization within Bedework services is based on DAV access control using ACLs.
 - This is proving to be complex for users, and inadequate in that the assignment of roles to a principal needs to affect multiple services, e.g. CalDAV and CardDAV.



Issues and Challenges

- Shibboleth implements Web Browser Single-Sign On profile of SAML, which requires a full webbrowser to run.
 - Virtually no *-DAV clients are full web browsers. We need something else to base federated identity authorization for *-DAV (CalDAV, CardDAV, WebDAV, etc).





Bedework and Directories

- Bedework is largely a consumer of directory information through an abstract interface.
- We need to map LDAP information onto the principal hierarchies expected in the DAV world, e.g.
 - id=douglm,ou=accounts,d=rpi,r=edu <--> /principals/users/douglm
 - and similarly for groups.
 - groups need to be multi-level, e.g. /principals/groups/dotcio/cmt
 - Groups can be members of groups
 - Apple assume that user principals are also groups this is how they make people proxies, they create 2 groups (1 for read, 1 for read/write) that are members of the user principal group and then add principals to those groups.



Bedework Admin groups

- Maintained distinctly because there is an account associated with the group.
- Could do in LDAP but many Bedework deployers have no privilege to modify site LDAP schema.
- In next release, groups may be fully fledged principals,
 - i.e. they can own things, at which point it becomes easier to move the admin groups into LDAP.
 - we may no longer have to implement group management in Bedework, using the packaged directory server instead



Personal v admin Groups

- At start of a session, Bedework obtains group membership for current user
- if you're a member of /rpi/dotcio and also /rpi/dotcio/cmt
 - any specific rights for /rpi/dotcio/cmt should override those for /rpi/dotcio.
- Need to ensure that user X logging into the admin client doesn't get the same group membership as when X logs in to the personal client
 - Lest they have write access to the public tree when doing personal calendaring.



The Future

 "We should all be concerned about the future because we will have to spend the rest of our lives there." – Charles Kettering



iSchedule

- iSchedule https://www.ietf.org/mailman/listinfo/ischedule
 - a binding from (iTIP) to (HTTP) to enable interoperability between calendaring and scheduling systems over the Internet.
 - specifies how a calendar service (iSchedule Sender) transmits scheduling messages (iTIP messages) to another calendar service (iSchedule Receiver)
 - Server-server trust model



W₂C

- Federated/cloud/aggregation
- Workflow, Authentication, Discovery
- Social networking
- Semantic Web
- Handheld/mobile
- Massive scalability
- Pervasive internationalization/localization

22

- Event aggregators / harvesters
- Calendaring as a platform

The dangling conversation

Yes, we speak of things that matter,

With words that must be said,

Can analysis be worthwhile?

Is the desktop client really dead?

Federated Calendaring Futures

 We need new, closer, more pervasive collaborations between Middleware / IDM developers/practitioners and calendaring developers / practitioners.

24