



XMPP

XEP-0097: iCal Envelope

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A simple mechanism to transport iCal data over the jabber protocol

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1 Introduction

This will be the first, in a series (hopefully), of specifications which will define how to utilize GroupWare over jabber. While GroupWare is extremely broad subject, this document will focus on iCal¹. Since iCal is a defined standard which is transport-agnostic, all this document will do is define how iCal will be transported over Jabber.

What this document will cover:

- Sending iCal data
- Receiving iCal data

2 Disco

Before sending iCal messages to a jabber entity, a disco query should be performed in order to discover whether or not that entity supports iCal Envelopes.

```
<iq
  type='get'
  from='romeo@montague.net/orchard'
  to='juliet@capulet.com/balconey'
  id='info1'>
  <query xmlns='http://jabber.org/protocol/disco#info' />
</iq>
```

If the jabber entity supports iCal Envelopes, then it MUST respond with `http://jabber.org/protocol/gw/ical` as a feature.

```
<iq
  type='result'
  from='juliet@capulet.com/balconey'
  to='romeo@montague.net/orchard'
  id='info1'>
  <query xmlns='http://jabber.org/protocol/disco#info'>
    <feature var='http://jabber.org/protocol/gw/ical' />
  </query>
</iq>
```

3 Sending iCal Data

To send iCal, all that needs to be done is wrap the iCal data in a ical element. All iCal data sent MUST be in the ical element in the `http://jabber.org/protocol/gw/ical` namespace. The

¹iCalendar <http://www.ietf.org/html.charters/calsch-charter.html>

CDATA section is optional and is used here simply to make it readable.
Other than wrapping iCal in XML, the data itself MUST follow the ietf 2445 RFC²

```
<message to="jdev@jabber.org" from="calendar.jabber.org" type="normal"
>
<body>
  Protocol gathering every Tuesday at 22:00 UTC
  located in foundation@conference.jabber.org
</body>
<ical xmlns=path{}">
  BEGIN:VCALENDAR
  PRODID: -//Ximian//NONSGML Evolution Calendar//EN
  VERSION:2.0
  METHOD:PUBLISH
  BEGIN:VEVENT
  UID:20030418T014238Z-5727-500-1-2@oadev
  DTSTAMP:20030418T014238Z
  DTSTART:20030422T220000Z
  DTEND:20030422T230000Z
  SEQUENCE:3
  SUMMARY:XEPs
  LOCATION:foundation@conference.jabber.org
  CATEGORIES:XSF
  CLASS:PUBLIC
  TRANSP:OPAQUE
  LAST-MODIFIED:20030418T014527Z
  DESCRIPTION:discuss jeps
  RRULE:FREQ=WEEKLY;INTERVAL=1;BYDAY=TU
  END:VEVENT
  END:VCALENDAR
</ical>
</message>
```

As a convenience for users which do not have ical support the sender may want to place human readable information in the <body/> for the receiver to read.

4 Receiving iCal Data

When a client receives a message containing iCal data there are a few options which are considered reasonable.

- Ignore the message
- Display the ical data in the message

²2445 RFC <http://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc2445.txt>

- Hand the ical data off to the user's calendaring application

Per the jabber standard, any message received which the entity does not understand CAN be ignored. This behavior is expected of clients which have not implemented this jep.

The entity may display the ical data as text to the user, this is not recommended for obvious reasons. However, some data is better than no data, so this is considered preferable to just dropping the message stanza.

Most users today have some form of calendaring functionality available to them which supports the iCal standard. Simply redirecting the received ical to the user's preferred calendaring application would be the ideal scenario.

5 IANA Considerations

This document requires no interaction with the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA)

6 XMPP Registrar Considerations

The 'http://jabber.org/protocol/gw/ical' namespace is registered with the XMPP Registrar as a result of this document.

7 Formal Definition

7.1 Schema

TBD

7.2 DTD

TBD

8 Unresolved Issues

The following are issues that need to be resolved

- Does scheduling negotiation need to be defined?
- How should attachments to ical be handled?