



Author / Contributor	Publish Date	Comments
Dominic Chan dominic.chan@newswire.ca	2003-06-04	Overview on information gathered from IPTC members and the EventML-DVL group.



## 1. Mission Statement

To create an XML format to be used in notifications of news worthy events such as press conferences for distributions to news media and others users who have an interest in the information for internal or external purposes.

## 2. Objective

- An XML format that can be a stand-alone or be incorporated into other IPTC standards.
- Contains relationship entity for relating to and / or from a news item.
- Ability to extend the use of EventsML as a notification tool but also incorporates into resource management such an assignment desk.

## 3. Review of existing standard related to Calendar/Events notification

### 3.1. vCalendar

vCalendar is created by the IMC (Internet Mail Consortium) containing the frameworks of iCalendar. Version 2 is merged into iCalendar development.

vCalendar is an ex-change format for personal scheduling information. It is applicable to a wide variety of calendaring and scheduling products and is useful in exchanging information across a broad range of transport methods.

Sample:

```
BEGIN:VCALENDAR
PRODID:-//Microsoft Corporation//Outlook 9.0 MIMEDIR//EN
VERSION:1.0
BEGIN:VEVENT
DTSTART:20030604T174500Z
DTEND:20030604T190000Z
LOCATION;ENCODING=QUOTED-PRINTABLE:Aarhus, Denmark
UID:040000008200E00074C5B7101A82E00800000000800B13630827C30100000
00000000000100
00000C199E5B35C9DA04688BFB50C38549503
CATEGORIES;ENCODING=QUOTED-PRINTABLE:Business
DESCRIPTION;ENCODING=QUOTED-PRINTABLE:This event will be held at
IPTC AGM in Denmark.
SUMMARY;ENCODING=QUOTED-PRINTABLE:EventsML Working Party
PRIORITY:3
END:VEVENT
END:VCALENDAR
```



### 3.2. iCalendar

iCalendar is created by the IETF (RFC 2445, <http://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc2445.txt>).

The iCalendar format is suitable as an exchange format between applications or systems. The format is defined in terms of a MIME content type. This will enable the object to be exchanged using several transports, including but not limited to SMTP, HTTP, a file system, desktop interactive protocols such as the use of a memory-based clipboard or drag/drop interactions, point-to-point asynchronous communication, wired-network transport, or some form of unwired transport such as infrared might also be used.

Sample:

```
BEGIN:VCALENDAR
PRODID:-//Microsoft Corporation//Outlook 9.0 MIMEDIR//EN
VERSION:2.0
METHOD:REQUEST
BEGIN:VEVENT
ATTENDEE;CN="Dominic Chan";ROLE=REQ-
PARTICIPANT;RSVP=TRUE:MAILTO:dominic.chan@newswire.ca
ATTENDEE;CN=IPTC@IPTC;ROLE=REQ-
PARTICIPANT;RSVP=TRUE:MAILTO:IPTC@IPTC
ORGANIZER:MAILTO:dominic.chan@newswire.ca
DTSTART:20030604T174500Z
DTEND:20030604T190000Z
LOCATION:Aarhus\, Denmark
TRANSP:OPAQUE
SEQUENCE:0
UID:040000008200E00074C5B7101A82E00800000000800B13630827C30100000
00000000000100
00000C199E5B35C9DA04688BFB50C38549503
DTSTAMP:20030531T040547Z
ATTACH:ftp://ftp.bar.com/pub/docs/foo.doc
CATEGORIES:Business
DESCRIPTION:This event will be held at IPTC AGM in Denmark.
SUMMARY:EventsML Working Party
PRIORITY:5
CLASS:PUBLIC
BEGIN:VALARM
TRIGGER:PT15M
ACTION:DISPLAY
DESCRIPTION:Reminder
END:VALARM
END:VEVENT
END:VCALENDAR
```



### 3.3. xCalendar

XML representation for the standard iCalendar format defined in RFC 2445. There is an Internet draft called iCalendar DTD document published in July 2002 but it has expired in January 2003 without further information.

Sample:

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<!DOCTYPE iCalendar PUBLIC "-//IETF//DTD XCAL/iCalendar XML//EN"
"http://www.ietf.org/internet-drafts/draft-ietf-calsch-many-xcal-
01.txt"
[
<!ENTITY attach1 SYSTEM "http://host.com/pub/photos/holiday.jpg"
NDATA JPEG>

<!NOTATION JPEG PUBLIC "ISO/IEC 10918:1993//NOTATION Digital
Compression and Coding of Continuous-tone Still Images
(JPEG)//EN" >
]>

<iCalendar>
<vcalendar method="REQUEST"
    version="2.0"
    prodid="-//HandGen//NONSGML vGen v1.0//EN">
<vevent>
    <uid>19981211T133000@call.host.com</uid>
    <dtstamp>19981211T132928Z</dtstamp>
    <organizer>jim@host.com</organizer>
    <dtstart>19981212T150000Z</dtstart>
    <dtend>19981212T160000Z</dtend>
    <summary>Department Meeting</summary>
    <location>Conference Room 23A</location>
    <attendee role="CHAIR">jim@host.com</attendee>
    <attendee role="REQ-PART"
        rsvp="TRUE">MAILTO:joe@host.com</attendee>
    <attendee role="REQ-PART"
        rsvp="TRUE">MAILTO:steve@host.com</attendee>
    <attach><extref uri="attach1" /></attach>
</vevent>
</vcalendar>
</iCalendar>
```

### 3.4. SKiCal

The Structured Knowledge Initiative - SKiCal - aims to improve the information infrastructure concerned with public events (concerts, sports competitions, conferences etc.)

SkiCal expands the traditional property-set of name, address, telephone number and business category, adding structured information about people, places, things, activities and the



conditions and terms for interaction with resources. SkiCal provides a structure for information about dates and times, directions, rules and recommendations for participation, pricing and reservation schemes, access information for those with special needs, ownership and responsibilities and promotional material.

Sample:

```
BEGIN:VCALENDAR
  VERSION:2.0
  SKICALVER:1.0
  PRODID:-//HandGenerated/SkiCal//NONSGML v1.0//EN
  BEGIN:VEVENT
    SKUID:kj08988b@nationalchamberorch.org
    SUMMARY:Handel's "Messiah" featuring the National Chamber
  Orchestra
    TITLE:Messiah
    DTSTART:19991217T200000
    DTEND:19991217T220000
    VENUE:Indoors
    PERSONS;SKiROLE="conductor":Takao Kanayama
    PERSONS;SKiROLE="orchestra":National Chamber Orchestra
    PERSONS;SKiROLE="creator":G.F.Handel
    PRICE;PRXITEM="SFT:Far side";CURRENCY=USD:17
  END:VEVENT
END:VCALENDAR
```

*Comments: The ideal of incorporating extra information is good. However, very little development on this area and is not XML enabled.*

### 3.5. RDF Calendar

Representing iCalendar in RDF.

RDF stands for Resource Description Framework. RDF is built for the Web. It is a system based on metadata, that is, information about information.

RDF (Resource Description Framework) is a W3C Semantic Web specification that enables anyone to create a vocabulary that describes anything. Vocabularies created by different communities can be combined in a text-based file format to provide rich descriptions of things like events, people and documents.

Sample:

```
- <rdf:RDF xmlns:rdf="http://www.w3.org/1999/02/22-rdf-
  syntax-ns#" xmlns="http://www.w3.org/2002/12/cal/ical#"
  xmlns:i="http://www.w3.org/2002/12/cal/ical#"
  xmlns:x="http://www.w3.org/2002/12/cal/prod_apple#">
- <Vcalendar>
  <calscale>GREGORIAN</calscale>
  <x:wrTimezone>Europe/London</x:wrTimezone>
  <method>PUBLISH</method>
```



```
<prodid>-//Apple Computer\, Inc//iCal
  1.0//EN</prodid>
<x:wrRelcalid>054E5865-6ADB-11D7-A189-
  000393161A98</x:wrRelcalid>
<x:wrCalname>Work</x:wrCalname>
<version>2.0</version>
- <component>
  - <Vevent>
    <sequence>37</sequence>
    - <dtstamp rdf:parseType="Resource">
      <dateTime>2003-04-
        09T22:31:01Z</dateTime>
      </dtstamp>
      <summary>Calendar meeting #rdfig</summary>
    - <dtend rdf:parseType="Resource">
      <dateTime>2003-04-
        23T18:30:00</dateTime>

      <tzid>/softwarestudio.org/Olson_2001
        1030_5/Europe/London</tzid>
    </dtend>
    - <dtstart rdf:parseType="Resource">
      <dateTime>2003-04-
        23T17:00:00</dateTime>

      <tzid>/softwarestudio.org/Olson_2001
        1030_5/Europe/London</tzid>
    </dtstart>
    <uid>054E484C-6ADB-11D7-A189-
      000393161A98</uid>
    </Vevent>
  </component>
- <component>
  - <Vtimezone>

    <tzid>/softwarestudio.org/Olson_20011030
      _5/Europe/London</tzid>

    <x:licLocation>Europe/London</x:licLocat
      ion>
    - <standard rdf:parseType="Resource">
      <tzoffsetfrom>+0100</tzoffsetfrom>
      <tzoffsetto>+0000</tzoffsetto>
      <tzname>GMT</tzname>
    - <dtstart rdf:parseType="Resource">
      <dateTime>1970-10-
        25T02:00:00</dateTime>
      </dtstart>
    - <rrule rdf:parseType="Resource">
      <bymonth>10</bymonth>
      <freq>YEARLY</freq>
      <byday>-1SU</byday>
      <interval>1</interval>
    </rrule>
```



```
    </standard>
  - <daylight rdf:parseType="Resource">
    <tzoffsetfrom>+0000</tzoffsetfrom>
    <tzoffsetto>+0100</tzoffsetto>
    <tzname>BST</tzname>
  - <dtstart rdf:parseType="Resource">
    <dateTime>1970-03-
      29T01:00:00</dateTime>
    </dtstart>
  - <rrule rdf:parseType="Resource">
    <bymonth>3</bymonth>
    <freq>YEARLY</freq>
    <byday>-1SU</byday>
    <interval>1</interval>
    </rrule>
  </daylight>
</Vtimezone>
</component>
</Vcalendar>
</rdf:RDF>
```

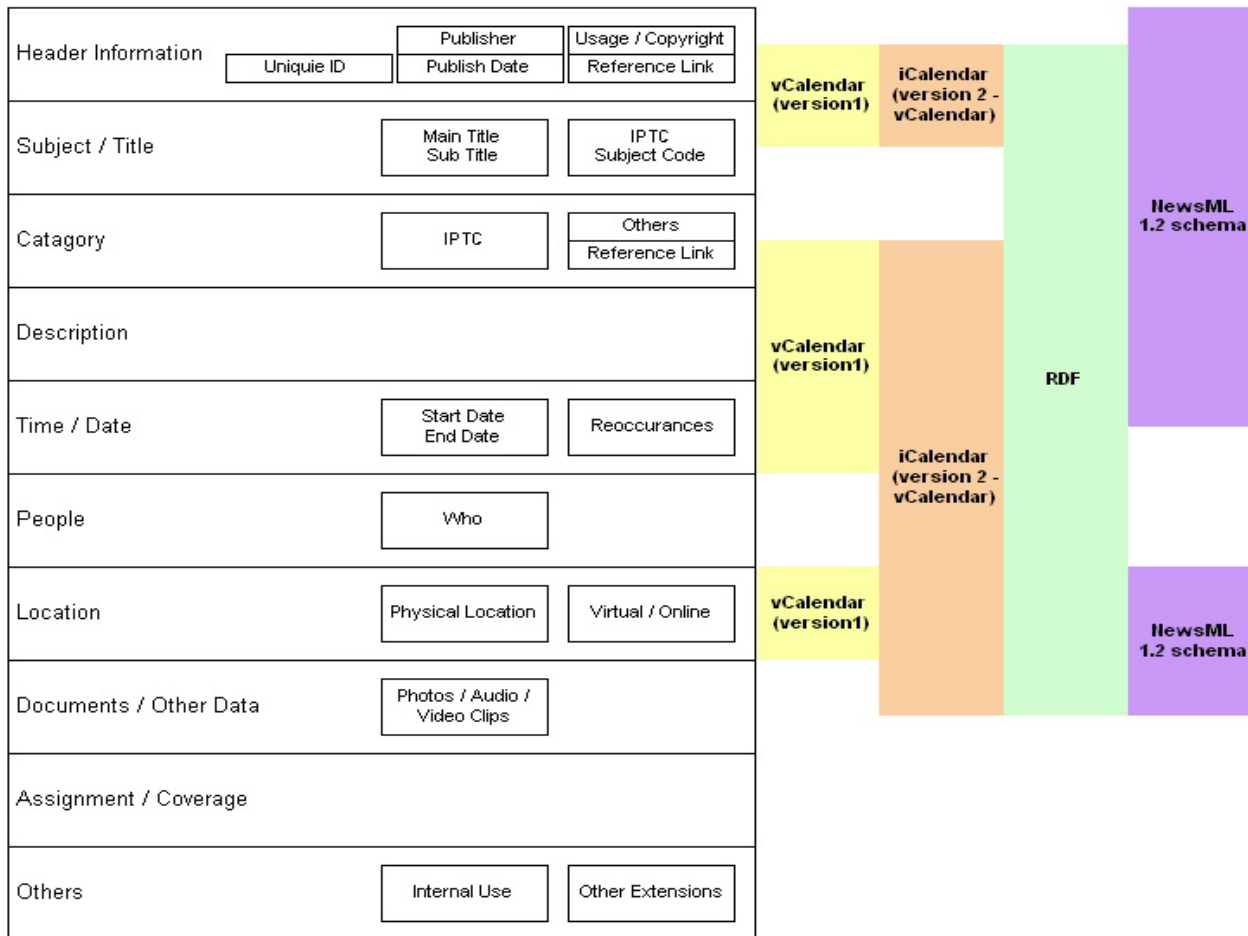


## 4. Overview of Requirements and Existing Standards

### 4.1. Requirements and / or Sample Received (as of AGM 2003)

- Belga
- AP
- TT
- Canada NewsWire
- Wall Street Journal
- AFP

### 4.2. Quick Comparison Chart





## **5. Possible Solutions**

### **5.1. Extend / Adopt RDF format**

Pro: Supported by others. Already have RDF Calendar initiative in place.

Con: Issues on how to extend the format and how we handle changes in the standard that we have no control on.

### **5.2. Adopt vCAL/iCAL in NewsML**

Pro: iCAL is a proven standard that is incorporated into many commercial applications.

Con: Neither vCAL or iCAL is XML enabled. xCAL maybe a format however is in draft mode and little information on its whereabouts.

### **5.3. Create an IPTC standard**

Pro: Control what we need and how we define the standard.

Con: More things to keep track and support.

### **5.4. Collaborate with standard body to modify / create a current standard that covers IPTC interest.**

- OASIS (IPTC is a member)

Pro: Open standard that will gain wider acceptance and use.

Con: Standard might cover more than IPTC interest. Extra time and efforts co-ordinations with external parties.