

Calendaring and scheduling — iTip using PARTICIPANT only

Committee Draft Standard

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Foreword

This specification defines updates to RFC5546 iTip which allow scheduling using the “PARTICIPANT” calendar components specified in RFC9073.

New properties are also defined for use within the “PARTICIPANT” calendar component.

The Calendaring and Scheduling Consortium (“CalConnect”) is a global non-profit organization with the aim to facilitate interoperability of collaborative technologies and tools through open standards.

CalConnect works closely with international and regional partners, of which the full list is available on our website (<https://www.calconnect.org/about/liaisons-and-relationships>).

The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the CalConnect Directives.

In particular the different approval criteria needed for the different types of CalConnect documents should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the CalConnect Directives.

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This document was prepared by Technical Committee *FREEBUSY*.

Introduction

This specification details how the “PARTICIPANT” calendar component introduced in [IETF RFC 9073](#) may be used for scheduling in place of [IETF RFC 5545](#) “ATTENDEE” and “ORGANIZER” properties. Additionally, some properties are defined in this specification to be used within the “PARTICIPANT” calendar component.

For “VEVENT”, “VTODO”, “VFREEBUSY”, and “VAVAILABILITY” calendar components; the “ORGANIZER” and “ATTENDEE” properties MUST be supplied as specified in [IETF RFC 5546](#). For new components such as the “VPOLL” calendar component, defined elsewhere, only “PARTICIPANT” calendar components MUST be used. A participant object that takes part in group scheduling MUST have the following characteristics:

- It MUST have a calendar address as defined in [IETF RFC 9073, Section 6.4](#).
- It must have one or more scheduling roles defined in PARTICIPANT-TYPE
- Exactly 1 PARTICIPANT MUST have the OWNER role

Scheduling with “PARTICIPANT” calendar components behaves exactly as with “ATTENDEE” and “ORGANIZER” properties. When iTip specifies the setting of “ATTENDEE” or “ORGANIZER” property parameters then the appropriate properties will be set within the “PARTICIPANT” calendar component.

Calendaring and scheduling — iTip using PARTICIPANT only

1. Scope

This document provides a mechanism in iCalendar for consensus scheduling of events, using the “PARTICIPANT” calendar component.

This document also defines new properties for use within the “PARTICIPANT” calendar component.

2. Normative references

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes requirements of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

IETF RFC 2518, Y. GOLAND, E. WHITEHEAD, A. FAIZI, S. CARTER and D. JENSEN. *HTTP Extensions for Distributed Authoring — WEBDAV*. 1999. RFC Publisher. <https://www.rfc-editor.org/info/rfc2518>.

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IETF RFC 5546, C. DABOO (ed.). *iCalendar Transport-Independent Interoperability Protocol (iTIP)*. 2009. RFC Publisher. <https://www.rfc-editor.org/info/rfc5546>.

IETF RFC 6047, A. MELNIKOV (ed.). *iCalendar Message-Based Interoperability Protocol (iMIP)*. 2010. RFC Publisher. <https://www.rfc-editor.org/info/rfc6047>.

IETF RFC 9073, M. DOUGLASS. *Event Publishing Extensions to iCalendar*. 2021. RFC Publisher. <https://www.rfc-editor.org/info/rfc9073>.

3. Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

The key words “MUST”, “MUST NOT”, “REQUIRED”, “SHALL”, “SHALL NOT”, “SHOULD”, “SHOULD NOT”, “RECOMMENDED”, “NOT RECOMMENDED”, “MAY”, and “OPTIONAL” in this document are to be interpreted as described in [IETF RFC 2119](https://www.rfc-editor.org/info/rfc2119).

The notation used in this memo to (re-)define iCalendar elements is the ABNF notation of [IETF RFC 5234](https://www.rfc-editor.org/info/rfc5234) as used by [IETF RFC 5545](https://www.rfc-editor.org/info/rfc5545). Any syntax elements shown below that are not explicitly defined in this specification come from iCalendar [IETF RFC 5545](https://www.rfc-editor.org/info/rfc5545).

Additionally, the following terms are used:

3.1. participant

Represents an agent that takes part in scheduling or publishing. A participant may be a human, for example an attendee, or a resource, for example a conference room.

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3.2. publishable

A component which takes part in [IETF RFC 5546](#) publishing operations.

3.3. schedulable

A component which takes part in [IETF RFC 5546](#) scheduling operations.

3.4. owner

The "Owner" of a "Schedulable" component is equivalent to the "Organizer" in [IETF RFC 5546](#). As such, there may be only one "Owner" though future specifications may relax or extend that constraint. The "Owner" is indicated by a role of "OWNER".

4. iCalendar Extensions

4.1. New Property Parameters

4.1.1. Required

Parameter name	REQUIRED
Purpose	To specify whether the associated property is required in the current context.
Format	This parameter is defined by the following notation:
Definition	<pre>requiredparam = "REQUIRED" "=" ("TRUE" / "FALSE") ; Default is FALSE</pre>

Figure 1

Description This parameter MAY be specified on "REPLY-URL" property and, if the value is TRUE, indicates the "Owner" requires all replies to be made via the specified service rather than iTip replies.

4.2. New Properties

4.2.1. Reply-URL

Property name	REPLY-URL
Purpose	This property may be used in scheduling messages to indicate additional reply methods, for example a web-service.
Value type	URI
Property Parameters	Non-standard, required or iana parameters can be specified on this property.
Conformance	This property MAY be specified once in any schedulable component.
Description	When used in a scheduling message this property indicates an additional or required service that can be used to reply. Typically, this would be a web service of some form.

When the "REQUIRED" property parameter is absent then this property provides an alternative to standard iTip based scheduling.

When the "REQUIRED" property parameter is present then this property provides the only mechanism by which participants can reply. This allows the implementation of a web-based service without the ability to accept incoming mail for example.

Format This property is defined by the following notation:

Definition

```
reply-url = "REPLY-URL" reply-urlparams ":" uri CRLF
```

```
reply-urlparams = *(
    (";" requiredparam) /
    (";" other-param)
)
```

Figure 2

4.3. Redefined participation type

This specification redefines the "PARTICIPANT-TYPE" property allowing it to take multiple values and extending those values to align with [IETF RFC 8984](#) roles. There are also changes to the description to clarify its use defining the roles that participant takes.

Property name	PARTICIPANT-TYPE
Purpose	This property is equivalent to the IETF RFC 5545 "ROLE" property parameter but includes more values to align with IETF RFC 8984 .
Value Type	The value type for this property is TEXT. The allowable values are defined below.
Property Parameters	Non-standard or iana parameters can be specified on this property.
Conformance	This property MUST be specified once within a "PARTICIPANT" calendar component.
Description	<p>This property defines the type of participation, that is the roles the participant takes.</p> <p>It includes the values defined in IETF RFC 8984.</p> <p>Note that the kind of participant, for example individual or group, is defined in the "KIND" property specified here.</p> <p>Some of the roles are required for the participant to be a "schedulable" object. These are the roles that are shown below.</p>

Format This property is defined by the following notation:

Definition

```
participanttype = "PARTICIPANT-TYPE" partvalueparam ":"
    partvalue
    *(", " partvalue) CRLF
```

```
partvalue = ("OWNER"
    / "ATTENDEE"
    / "OPTIONAL"
    / "INFORMATIONAL"
    / "CHAIR")
```

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```

/ "ACTIVE"
/ "INACTIVE"
/ "SPONSOR"
/ "CONTACT"
/ "BOOKING-CONTACT"
/ "EMERGENCY-CONTACT"
/ "PUBLICITY-CONTACT"
/ "PLANNER-CONTACT"
/ "PERFORMER"
/ "SPEAKER"
/ iana-token) ; Other IANA-registered
; values

```

partvalueparam = *("; " other-param)

Figure 3

The values have the same meaning as defined in [IETF RFC 8984](#) and [IETF RFC 9073](#).

Other roles defined here have no direct equivalent in [IETF RFC 5545](#)

To map [IETF RFC 5545](#) "ROLE" property parameter values to "PARTICIPANT-TYPE" property values use the following.

Table 1

RFC5545 ROLE	PARTICIPANT-TYPE
CHAIR	CHAIR
REQ-PARTICIPANT	ATTENDEE
OPT-PARTICIPANT	OPTIONAL
NON-PARTICIPANT	INFORMATIONAL

The following table shows those roles that MUST appear in the "PARTICIPANT-TYPE" property for group-scheduling. Additionally, the mapping for "PARTICIPANT-TYPE" property values to [IETF RFC 5545](#) values are shown.

Table 2

PARTICIPANT-TYPE	RFC5545 ROLE
OWNER	Create ORGANIZER
ATTENDEE	REQ-PARTICIPANT
OPTIONAL	OPT-PARTICIPANT
INFORMATIONAL	NON-PARTICIPANT
CHAIR	CHAIR

Subsequent values have no [IETF RFC 5545](#) equivalent

CONTACT

VOTER

ACTIVE

INACTIVE

PARTICIPANT-TYPE**RFC5545 ROLE**

SPONSOR

BOOKING-CONTACT

EMERGENCY-CONTACT

PUBLICITY-CONTACT

PLANNER-CONTACT

PERFORMER

SPEAKER

- Examples — PARTICIPANT-TYPE=OWNER,... equivalent to the "ORGANIZER" property
 — PARTICIPANT-TYPE=ATTENDEE,... equivalent to the "ATTENDEE" property

5. New Participant Properties for iTip

The following properties are defined to be used within the "PARTICIPANT" calendar component during scheduling and take the place of "ATTENDEE" and "ORGANIZER" properties and parameters.

5.1. Kind

Property name	KIND
Purpose	This is what kind of entity this participant is, if known.
Property Parameters	Non-standard or iana parameters can be specified on this property.
Conformance	This property MAY be specified in a "PARTICIPANT" calendar component.
Description	<p>When used in a "PARTICIPANT" calendar component this property indicates the kind of entity, individual, group etc.</p> <p>It takes the values shown below which are a redefinition of the "CUTYPE" property parameter values defined in IETF RFC 5545 and aligned with IETF RFC 8984.</p>
Format Definition	This property is defined by the following notation:
	<pre>kind = "KIND" kindparams ":" "INDIVIDUAL" ; An individual / "GROUP" ; A group of individuals / "RESOURCE" ; A physical resource / "LOCATION" ; A location resource e.g a room / iana-token CRLF kindparams = *(";" other-param)</pre>

Figure 4

5.2. Participation-status

Property name PARTICIPATION-STATUS

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Purpose	This property is used in the "PARTICIPANT" calendar component to indicate the participation status — if any.
Property Parameters	Non-standard or iana parameters can be specified on this property.
Conformance	This property MAY be specified in a "PARTICIPANT" calendar component.
Description	When used in a "PARTICIPANT" calendar component this property indicates what status, if any, the participant has. It takes the same values as the "PARTSTAT" property parameter defined in IETF RFC 5545 .

Format Definition This property is defined by the following notation:

```
participation-status = "PARTICIPATION-STATUS"  
    participation-statusparams ":"  
    NEEDS-ACTION / ; No status  
        ; has yet been set by the participant.  
    ACCEPTED / ; The invited  
        ; participant will participate.  
    DECLINED / ; The invited  
        ; participant will not participate.  
    TENTATIVE / ; The invited participant  
        ; may participate.  
    DELEGATED / ; The invited participant  
        ; has delegated their attendance to  
        ; another participant, as specified  
        ; in the PARTICIPATION-DELEGATED-TO property.  
    COMPLETED / ; The assigned task is  
        ; completed.  
    IN-PROCESS / ; The assigned task is  
        ; being worked on.  
    iana-token ("," iana-token) CRLF  
  
participation-statusparams = *(";" other-param)
```

Figure 5

5.3. Participation delegated from

Property name	PARTICIPATION-DELEGATED-FROM
Purpose	This property is used in the "PARTICIPANT" calendar component to indicate who has delegated their participation to this participant.
Property Parameters	Non-standard or iana parameters can be specified on this property.
Conformance	This property MAY be specified in a "PARTICIPANT" calendar component 0 or more times.
Description	This property specifies a calendar user that has delegated their participation in a group-scheduled component to the calendar user specified by the component.

Format Definition This property is defined by the following notation:

```
participation-delfrom = "PARTICIPATION-DELEGATED-FROM"  
    participation-delfromparams ":"
```

```
CAL-ADDRESS
iana-token ("," iana-token) CRLF
```

```
participation-delfromparams = *("; " other-param)
```

Figure 6

5.4. Participation delegated to

Property name	PARTICIPATION-DELEGATED-TO
Purpose	To specify the calendar user to whom the calendar user specified by the component has delegated participation.
Property Parameters	Non-standard or iana parameters can be specified on this property.
Conformance	This property MAY be specified in a "PARTICIPANT" calendar component 0 or more times.
Description	This property specifies the calendar user that has been delegated participation in a group-scheduled component by the calendar user specified by the component.
Format Definition	This property is defined by the following notation:

```
participation-delto = "PARTICIPATION-DELEGATED-TO"
                    participation-deltoparams ":"
                    CAL-ADDRESS
                    iana-token ("," iana-token) CRLF
```

```
participation-deltoparams = *("; " other-param)
```

Figure 7

5.5. Member of

Property name	MEMBER-OF
Purpose	To specify the group or list membership of the calendar user specified by the component.
Property Parameters	Non-standard or iana parameters can be specified on this property.
Conformance	This property MAY be specified in a "PARTICIPANT" calendar component 0 or more times.
Description	This property identifies the group or list membership for the calendar user specified by the component.
Format Definition	This property is defined by the following notation:

```
member-of = "MEMBER-OF" member-ogparams ":"
           CAL-ADDRESS
           iana-token ("," iana-token) CRLF
```

```
memberofparams = *("; " other-param)
```

Figure 8

5.6. Lang

Property name	LANG
Purpose	This is the language tag, as defined in IETF RFC 5646 , that best describes the participant's preferred language, if known.
Property Parameters	Non-standard or iana parameters can be specified on this property.
Conformance	This property MAY be specified in any appropriate component.
Format Definition	This property is defined by the following notation: lang = "LANG" langparams ":" TEXT CRLF langparams = *(";" other-param)

Figure 9

5.7. Expect reply

Property name	EXPECT-REPLY
Purpose	If true, the organizer is expecting the participant to notify them of their participation status.
Property Parameters	Non-standard or iana parameters can be specified on this property.
Conformance	This property MAY be specified once in the "PARTICIPANT" calendar component.
Format Definition	This property is defined by the following notation: expect-reply = "EXPECT-REPLY" expect-replyparams ":" ("TRUE" / "FALSE") CRLF expect-replyparams = *(";" other-param)

Figure 10

5.8. Scheduling-agent

Property name	SCHEDULING-AGENT
Purpose	This is who is responsible for sending scheduling messages with this calendar object to the participant.
Property Parameters	Non-standard or iana parameters can be specified on this property.
Conformance	This property MAY be specified once in the "PARTICIPANT" calendar component.
Format Definition	This property is defined by the following notation: scheduling-agent = "SCHEDULING-AGENT" scheduling-agentparams ":" ("SERVER" /

```
"CLIENT" /
"NONE") CRLF
```

```
scheduling-agentparams = *("; " other-param)
```

Figure 11

The value MUST be one of the following values from the registry defined in [IETF RFC 6638, Section 12.4.1](#), or a vendor-specific value.

SERVER	The calendar server will send the scheduling messages.
CLIENT	The calendar client will send the scheduling messages.
NONE	No scheduling messages are to be sent to this participant.

5.9. Scheduling-force-send

Property name	SCHEDULING-FORCE-SEND
Purpose	A client may set the property on a participant to true to request that the server send a scheduling message to the participant when it would not normally do so (e.g., if no significant change is made the object or the scheduleAgent is set to client). The property MUST NOT be stored in the object on the server or appear in a scheduling message.

Property Parameters	Non-standard or iana parameters can be specified on this property.
Conformance	This property MAY be specified once in the "PARTICIPANT" calendar component.

Format Definition	This property is defined by the following notation:
-------------------	---

```
scheduling-force-send = "SCHEDULING-FORCE-SEND"
                        scheduling-force-sendparams ":"
                        ( "TRUE" / "FALSE") CRLF
```

```
scheduling-force-sendparams = *("; " other-param)
```

Figure 12

Description This property MAY be specified in "PARTICIPANT" calendar components for which the "SCHEDULE-AGENT" property is set to the value "SERVER" or is absent. This property is used to force a server to send a scheduling message to a specific calendar user in situations where the server would not send a scheduling message otherwise (e.g., when no change that warrants the delivery of a new scheduling message was performed on the scheduling object resource). An "Owner" MAY specify this property for a PARTICIPANT with the value "REQUEST" to force a "REQUEST" scheduling message to be sent to the user.

Participants who are not the "Owner" MAY specify this property in the "Owner" PARTICIPANT with the value "REPLY" to force a "REPLY" scheduling message to be sent to the "Owner".

Servers MUST NOT preserve this property in scheduling object resources, nor include it in any scheduling messages sent as the result of a scheduling operation.

Clients MUST NOT include this property in any scheduling messages that they themselves send.

Servers MUST set the "SCHEDULING-STATUS" property of the participant to 2.5 (i.e., "Success; unknown, non-standard property value ignored."; see [IETF RFC 5546, Section 3.6.6](#)) when the "SCHEDULE-FORCE-SEND" property is set to an iana-token value they do not recognize.

5.10. Scheduling-status

Property name	SCHEDULING-STATUS
Purpose	This is a list of status codes, returned from the processing of the most recent scheduling message sent to this participant. The status codes MUST be valid statcode values as defined in the ABNF in Section 3.8.8.3 of [RFC5545].

Servers MUST only add or change this property when they send a scheduling message to the participant. Clients SHOULD NOT change or remove this property if it was provided by the server. Clients MAY add, change, or remove the property for participants where the client is handling the scheduling. This property MUST NOT be included in scheduling messages.

Property Parameters	Non-standard or iana parameters can be specified on this property.
Conformance	This property MAY be specified in any appropriate component.

Format Definition	This property is defined by the following notation:
-------------------	---

```
scheduling-status = "SCHEDULING-STATUS"
                  scheduling-statusparams ":" TEXT CRLF

scheduling-statusparams = *(";" other-param)
```

Figure 13

5.11. Scheduling-dtstamp

Property name	SCHEDULING-DTSTAMP
Purpose	This is the timestamp for the most recent response from this participant.

This is the updated property of the last response when using iTIP. It can be compared to the updated property in future responses to detect and discard older responses delivered out of order.

Property Parameters	Non-standard or iana parameters can be specified on this property.
Conformance	This property MAY be specified in any appropriate component.

Format Definition	This property is defined by the following notation:
-------------------	---

```
scheduling-dtstamp = "SCHEDULING-DTSTAMP"
                  scheduling-dtstampparams ":" DATE-TIME CRLF
```



```
scheduling-dtstampparams = *("; " other-param)
```

Figure 14

5.12. Invited-by

Property name	INVITED-BY
Purpose	This is the calendar address of the participant who added this participant to the entity, if known.
Property Parameters	Non-standard or iana parameters can be specified on this property.
Conformance	This property MAY be specified in any appropriate component.
Format Definition	This property is defined by the following notation:

```
invited-by = "INVITED-BY"
           invited-byparams ":" CAL-ADDRESS CRLF
```

```
invited-byparams = *("; " other-param)
```

Figure 15

6. Attendee parameters mapping

Table 3

Parameter	iCalendar PARTICIPANT
CN	NAME (defined in IETF RFC 7986)
CUTYPE	KIND (defined here)
DELEGATED-FROM	PARTICIPATION-DELEGATED-FROM Clause 5.3
DELEGATED-TO	PARTICIPATION-DELEGATED-TO (defined here)
DIR	LINK IETF RFC 9253
LANGUAGE	LANG (defined here)
MEMBER	MEMBER-OF (defined here)
PARTSTAT	PARTICIPATION-STATUS (defined here)
ROLE	PARTICIPATION-TYPE (updated here)
RSVP	EXPECT-REPLY (defined here)
SENT-BY	

7. Security Considerations

There should be no new security risks additional to those noted in [IETF RFC 5546](#).

8. IANA Considerations

8.1. Parameter Registrations

This document defines the following new iCalendar property parameters to be added to the registry defined in [IETF RFC 5545, Section 8.2.4](#):

Table 4

Property Parameter	Status	Reference
REQUIRED	Current	Clause 4.1.1

8.2. Property Registrations

This document defines the following new iCalendar properties to be added to the registry defined in [IETF RFC 5545, Section 8.2.3](#):

Table 5

Property	Status	Reference
EXPECT-REPLY	Current	Clause 5.7
INVITED-BY	Current	Clause 5.12
KIND	Current	Clause 5.1
LANG	Current	Clause 5.6
MEMBER-OF	Current	Clause 5.5
PARTICIPATION-DELEGATED-FROM	Current	Clause 5.3
PARTICIPATION-DELEGATED-TO	Current	Clause 5.4
PARTICIPATION-STATUS	Current	Clause 5.2
REPLY-URL	Current	Clause 4.2.1
SCHEDULING-AGENT	Current	Clause 5.8
SCHEDULING-DTSTAMP	Current	Clause 5.11
SCHEDULING-FORCE-SEND	Current	Clause 5.9
SCHEDULING-STATUS	Current	Clause 5.10

8.3. Updated Participant Type Registrations

This updates the participant types registry defined in [IETF RFC 9073, Section 11.2.1](#)

Table 6

Participant Type	Status	Reference
OWNER	Current	RFC8984 IETF RFC 8984, Section 4.4.6
ATTENDEE	Current	RFC8984 IETF RFC 8984, Section 4.4.6

Participant Type	Status	Reference
OPTIONAL	Current	RFC8984 IETF RFC 8984, Section 4.4.6
INFORMATIONAL	Current	RFC8984 IETF RFC 8984, Section 4.4.6
CHAIR	Current	RFC8984 IETF RFC 8984, Section 4.4.6

9. Acknowledgements

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