# Workshop on the Veterans Administration Scheduling System Challenge
# CalConnect XXX, Dulles, Virginia, May 21 2014

## Introduction

CalConnect sponsored an open half-day workshop on the Veterans Administration Scheduling System Challenge on Wednesday afternoon 21 May 2014 as part of CalConnect XXX, hosted by AOL in Dulles, Virginia. Registered attendance for the event was 47, of which 26 came for the workshop; a few also registered for part of the Conference taking place on Thursday and Friday. The preliminary agenda and notes about the panelists may be found at VA Scheduling System Workshop.

## Why we convened this workshop

In late 2012, The U.S. Veterans Administration announced a "prize contest" to "...encourage creation of systems that help Veterans make appointments to receive outpatient and ambulatory care from the Veterans Health Administration" and ultimately "...to replace the current Medical Scheduling Package (MSP) with a scheduling product which is a standards-based, modular, extensible and scalable...". Recently, when the winning proposals were announced, we decided to use the VA Scheduling Contest as a jump point to explore the importance of open calendaring and scheduling standards with respect to Healthcare IT.

CalConnect's goal for the workshop, and especially the Panel Discussion, was to engage our membership with the panelists and other attendees in a discussion of Health Care scheduling needs and requirement in the context of calendaring and scheduling standards and interoperability. We hoped to learn at a functional level what Health Care has today in Calendaring and Scheduling, what it needs in the Calendaring and Scheduling standards and specifications that it does not have today, and what its needs will be tomorrow.

In turn, from the discussion we hoped would come better understanding, an initial insight as to what areas of the calendaring and scheduling work we are undertaking were relevant to Health Care, and how they may need to be changed or extended to better address the needs of the Health Care community.

## Meeting Summary

### Part 1 - Presentations

Gary Schwartz, CalConnect President: Welcome and Contextualizing the Workshop

Wes Turner, OSEHRA: [Introduction to VistA and OSEHRA's role in the VA Scheduling Contest](#)

Dr. William Smith, MedRed, and Ryan Lehman, BT Global Services: [Health eTime Solution for the VA 21st Century Medical Scheduling Contest](#) together with a [Video of Health e-Time](#).

Doug Golub, MediSked: [Scheduling for Home and Community-based Services](#)

**Part 2 - Panel Discussions**

The panel was moderated by Scott Mace, Senior Editor-Technology at HealthLeaders Media and a Director of CalConnect, and included:

Toby Considine (TC9)
William Cox (Cox Software Architects)
Doug Golub (MediSked)
Mike Henderson (OSEHRA)
Ken Rubin (HP Enterprise Services)
Wilfredo Sánchez Vega (CalConnect)
Dr. William Smith (MedRed)


# Attending and Participating Organizations

Participants and attendees for the Workshop came from the following organizations and companies (* = CalConnect Participant)

*1and1
Accenture Federal Services
*AOL
*Apple
BT Global Services
*BusyMac
*Carnegie Mellon University
Cox Software Architects LLC
Department of Veterans Affairs
DSS Inc.
*fruux GMBH
*Google
HealthLeaders Media
HP Enterprise Services
*Marten Gajda
Leidos
MedicaSoft LLC
MediSked
MedRed
*Mozilla
OSEHRA
PriceWaterhouseCoopers
*Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
*SchedJoules

Systems Made Simple
TC9
*TimeTrade Systems
*Univesity of California, Berkeley

## Mailing List for Workshop Attendees

Following the Panel Discussion, CalConnect offered to arrange a limited-life mailing list for everyone who attended the workshop to be able to interact. The e-mails of everyone registered for the workshop have been entered into the list; anyone who is not interested in being on the list may remove themselves or send Dave Thewlis a request to be removed. We anticipate the mailing list will be shut down by the end of the summer unless there is some need to keep it available.

## Conclusions and Thanks

Although it is too early to identify specific areas for collaboration and work, it is clear that CalConnect's work in scheduling, in particular the applicability of some of the protocols we are developing such as VPOLL and VAVAILABILITY to such needs as machine-to-machine scheduling, are extremely pertinent, and as our understanding increases we look forward to making these tools more usable and available to the Health Care community. Of course, involvement by interested members of the Health Care community in this work will be essential both for understanding and resources and we invite members of that Health Care community to get involved with us.

CalConnect thanks all of the participants in the workshop and everyone who worked to make it a success.