



Electronic Calendar Display

Technology Experience Bulletin, TEB: 2012-02

Electronic Calendar Display

In most court locations in Alaska the daily calendar is supplied as a paper printout left in the lobby for the public to use so they can find in what courtroom their case is going to be heard. As with most data on paper once it is printed it is often obsolete within a short period of time and updates are needed.

We also publish our calendars to the web and these are updated on a frequent basis.

<http://www.courts.alaska.gov/trialcts.htm#cal>

We wanted to better help our customers when they are at the Courthouse.

So we came up with our own electronic calendars, built by a combination of network, software and hardware folks from the ACS IS department. We liken the calendars to the arrival/departure screens that you find at airports. The data to build the screens is taken from a replicated version of the CourtView case management system used by ACS.

Tip 1: Develop a web application to display court hearing information by party's name alphabetically. If a party has more than one case, all will appear in case number order. Calendar event will appear for each party involved in the case based on a predefined list of party types to include. Party name will appear in initials if the party type is considered confidential.

Tip 2: Depending on the size of court location, entire list of hearing events may be divided and displayed on two or more

physical screen displays. Webpage can be launched at run time to divide entire list to include only party names that fall into a specific range of alpha letters.

Tip 3: Webpage has an option to display all events scheduled for current day, which is good for smaller courts. However, using parameters, the webpage can be set to display only a subset of events that starts within a window of time before and after the current time.

Tip 4: Updates to refresh the entire list for the given event time range occurs every 5 minutes or as defined when webpage launches

Tip 5: If the entire list of events in a given event time range has more than the number of events the display screen can handle at one time, webpage will display 35 events at a time first, then 2nd group of 35 events in 10 seconds, and rotate until the last group of 35 or remaining events are displayed before showing the first group of events again. 35 was chosen as a number that fit in the display panel. This number can be changed with a parameter setting.

Tip 6: Courts requested to have the webpage continue to display events that ended and display those with the resolve code if applicable to assist party who arrives late at the venue so they can see the status of hearing.

Tip 7: For large court with more than one building or location in the city, webpage will display hearings for all locations in case parties arriving at wrong location they do not mistakenly think event didn't occur.

Tip 8: Through experimentation, a darker background for the display made for easier viewing.

Tip 9: Choice of font for a non-fixed-width type is more difficult to manipulate but is better for fitting more information into limited real estate on screen.

Tip 10: Webpage is designed to display a friendly message if calendar event returns an empty set of data or the calendar information is not available due to lost connection to database.

Components

Server - Windows Server 2008 R2

Programming - NET 2.0, ASP.NET, C#, Visual Studio 2005

Database - SQL Server 2008 R2
(CourtView)

Client software Internet Explorer in Kiosk mode.

Internet Explorer shortcut to calendar site added to startup with the user set to auto logon

Hardware:

Thin Client Wyse Z90 with Windows 7 embedded

Monitors:

High Definition 42" – 55" depending on location arranged in portrait mode

We chose LG models

VGA output - resolution 768 x 1024 (portrait)

Web Application Parameters

Parameter Name	Description	Accepted Values	Default Value
Location	court location/city	Any city with a court location	Local city based on IP if found, otherwise Palmer
cacheDuration	time in seconds to be cached locally	Any positive whole number	300 (5 minutes)
eventsPerPage	number of events to show on each page	Any positive whole number	35
Portrait	to change portrait or landscape (basically just changes default eventsPerPage	true(shows portrait)/false(shows landscape)	true
limitEvents	To show either all events for day, or only small range	true/false	true
startLetters	Show events of parties with names beginning with these letters and after	Any alphanumeric character(s)	A
endLetters	Show events of parties with names beginning with these letters and before	Any alphanumeric character(s)	Z
afterEvent	minimum minutes to continue showing event after it has started	Any positive whole number	30
beforeEvent	minimum minutes before start of event to begin showing it	Any positive whole number	60
Shift	Number of minutes to between changing the start and end time	Any positive whole number	30
startTime	Specific start time to show (for debugging)	Any Date and Time	Based on current time, and above parameters
endTime	Specific end time to show (for debugging)	Any Date and Time	Based on current time, and above parameters

There is more intelligence built in the database query as well as the webpage presentation layer.

Event Schedule - Joe's Internet Explorer

http://pilot2/courtschedules/?location=Palme

Palmer Event Schedule
2:30 PM - 4:30 PM Thursday, June 14, 2012 Updated: 3:14 PM

Name	Case Number	Time	Judge	Crtrm	Result
Andrew, Keith W	3PA-12-00896CR	2:00 PM	Estelle	3	
Bailey, Phillip J	3PA-11-02586CR	9:00 AM	Heath	4	
Bear, Tessa L	3PA-11-00946CR	3:00 PM	Estelle	3	Hearing Vacated
Bentley, Ryan A	3PA-11-02801CR	2:00 PM	Estelle	3	
Berton, Zachary K	3PA-12-00533CR	2:00 PM	Estelle	3	
Burrow, Steve M	3PA-12-00436CR	3:00 PM	Estelle	3	
Collins, Andrew C	3PA-11-01719CR	3:00 PM	Estelle	3	
Cook, Christopher Royal	3PA-12-00205CR	3:00 PM	Estelle	3	
Coomler, Michael Louis	3PA-11-01618CR	3:00 PM	Estelle	3	
Copeland, Tesia G	3PA-11-02633CR	2:00 PM	Estelle	3	
Danford, Shenell	3PA-12-00890CI	4:00 PM	Estelle	3	
Danford, Sterling	3PA-12-00890CI	4:00 PM	Estelle	3	
Daniels, Benjamin E	3PA-12-00403CR	2:00 PM	Estelle	3	
Donithan, Mark	3PA-11-02376CR	3:00 PM	Estelle	3	
Druley, Robert Eldon	3PA-12-00842CR	3:00 PM	Estelle	3	
Farnis, Sandi J	3PA-12-01096CI	4:00 PM	Condie	1	
Gallagher, Robert Michael	3PA-12-00761CR	3:00 PM	Estelle	3	
Gardner, Scott Wayne	3PA-12-00449CR	3:00 PM	Estelle	3	
Gibson, Roberta	3PA-08-01469CI	9:00 AM	Kristiansen	8	
Gonzalez, Lorena Elvira	3PA-12-00341CR	3:00 PM	Estelle	3	
Gronewald, Bruce E	3PA-12-00100CR	2:00 PM	Estelle	3	
Hegener, Christopher J	3PA-12-00358CR	2:00 PM	Estelle	3	
Hill, Sidney Irvin	3PA-11-01799CR	2:00 PM	Estelle	3	
Holmes, Daniel D	3PA-11-03305CR	2:00 PM	Estelle	3	
Holmes, Daniel D	3PA-12-00554CR	3:00 PM	Estelle	3	

Palmer Court Calendar Display Page – Example 1

Event Schedule - Joe's Internet Explorer

http://pilot2/courtschedules/?location=Palme

Palmer Event Schedule
2:30 PM - 4:30 PM Thursday, June 14, 2012 Updated: 3:14 PM

Name	Case Number	Time	Judge	Crtrm	Result
Holmes, Daniel David	3PA-12-00755CR	3:00 PM	Estelle	3	
Holmes, Daniel David Pres...	3PA-12-00956CR	2:00 PM	Estelle	3	
Ingersol, Michael Joseph	3PA-11-00713CR	2:00 PM	Estelle	3	
Jackson, Tylia Rae	3PA-12-00094CR	2:00 PM	Estelle	3	
John, Eddie	3PA-12-00448CR	2:00 PM	Estelle	3	
Jurasek, Anthony Joseph JR	3PA-11-01732CR	2:00 PM	Estelle	3	
Keophithoun, Cynthia	3PA-12-01460CI	4:00 PM	Condie	1	
Keophithoun, James	3PA-12-01460CI	4:00 PM	Condie	1	
Krull, Paul Jeffrey	3PA-12-00033CR	3:00 PM	Estelle	3	
Kudlacek, Jeffrey Chad	3PA-12-00885CR	3:00 PM	Estelle	3	
Manscal, Christopher J	3PA-08-01469CI	9:00 AM	Kristiansen	8	
Manscal, Jennifer C	3PA-08-01469CI	9:00 AM	Kristiansen	8	
Marroquin, Nelda	3PA-11-03490CR	2:00 PM	Estelle	3	
Peterson, Tyson P	3PA-12-01096CI	4:00 PM	Condie	1	
Rhoades, Jordan D	3PA-12-00661CR	2:00 PM	Estelle	3	
Schaeffer-Mathis, Jacquali...	3PA-12-00631CR	3:00 PM	Estelle	3	
Schulz, Amberly N	3PA-12-00351CR	2:00 PM	Estelle	3	
Tate, Raymond	3PA-12-00396CR	3:00 PM	Estelle	3	
Ward, Alan	3PA-12-00890CI	4:00 PM	Estelle	3	
Whited, Walker E	3PA-11-03310CR	2:00 PM	Estelle	3	
Wool, Michael R	3PA-11-02749CR	2:00 PM	Estelle	3	
Wool, Michael Richard	3PA-11-02701CR	2:00 PM	Estelle	3	
Zimmerman, Allen O	3PA-12-00334CR	3:00 PM	Estelle	3	

Palmer Court Calendar Display Page – Example 2



Summary

The Alaska Court System sought to provide an electronic alternative to the traditional paper calendar to better assist our courthouse visitors and reduce paper usage and staff time. The creation of our own electronic calendar displays has allowed us to post the information from our CourtView case management system in a timely and cost-effective manner.

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Disclaimer: The advice and opinions represented in this bulletin are based on the experiences of the Alaska Court System. Such recommendations may not be suitable for other jurisdictions, and are only offered in the spirit of sharing experience as information to others considering the installation of similar technologies.