

Syncing Calendar with .ICS and CalDAV Feeds

The iPhone handily subscribes to Web-based calendars: your Google or Yahoo calendar, your favorite sports team schedule, a rock band's tour schedule, your company's events calendar, and so on.

Usually, these files are posted in one of two formats:

- **ICS.** This older format is read-only, meaning that you can summon these calendars to your iPhone's calendar, but you can't edit or add to them.
- **CalDAV.** Here's a newer format, the one Google and Yahoo calendars use, that permits two-way synchronizing—that is, you can make changes right on the phone.

Usually, all you need to get one of these wirelessly published *feeds* is its address, which looks like a funky Web address. Both types get synced wirelessly to your phone, and show up as individual *calendars* (categories) within the iPhone's Calendar app.

By far the easiest way to subscribe to an ICS or CalDAV calendar is to email the Web address to yourself. When you tap that link (within the email) on your iPhone, it asks if you want to subscribe to that Web calendar, and the deed is done. Those appointments now show up as non-editable events on your iPhone calendar.

You can also enter such an address manually, however, like this:

1. Find the link to the .ics or CalDAV feed wherever it appears—on a Web page, in an email message, in a document, whatever—and copy it. (See page 39 in *iPhone: The Missing Manual* for instructions on copying and pasting.)

2. On the iPhone, tap **Settings**→**Mail, Contacts, Calendars**→**Add Account**→**Other**. Now tap either **Add CalDAV Account** or **Add Subscribed Calendar**.
3. Tap in the Server box; tap **Paste**, so that the address now appears, or type out the server name. (For example, if you want to sync up with a Google calendar, the server is www.google.com.)

For a CalDAV account, also put in your password and username.

For an .ics feed, tap **Next**. On the following screen, you're offered advanced options like passwords, description, and alarms; confirm the settings here, and then tap **Save**.

When it's all over, you see a new "calendar" category in your iPhone Calendar, representing the published appointments.

Tip Note that .ics feeds and links aren't quite the same thing as .ics *email attachments*, like the ones Microsoft Outlook sends out as meeting invitations. The iPhone can accept and send meeting invitations just fine if it's synced up with a Microsoft Exchange corporate system (as described on page 324 of *iPhone: The Missing Manual*); alas, at this writing, it still doesn't know what to do with .ics meeting attachments that have been sent from copies of Microsoft Outlook that *aren't* part of an Exchange system.