

Calendar Gem

Nick Olmstead

The Workflow

When Sharing Connections needs to schedule pickups, they will first go to a list where they can see all the days that are currently set for pickups (Schedule.1). If they see the day they want to add a scheduled pickup to, they can click on that day and a list will appear that shows all the pickups set for that day (Schedule.3). If they do not see the day they want, they can click “add new day” which will direct them to a calendar where they can select a day (Schedule.2). Once a day is selected, the user can go to that day to view the pickups (Schedule.3). From there, they can add additional pickups.

The Screens

There are 3 screens:

- Schedule.1 - list pickup days
- Schedule.2 - new pickup day
- Schedule.3 - list pickups on day

The Gem

As for a solution to displaying a calendar, the most popular solution seems to be a jQuery calendar called Full Calendar. To implement, all that is required is to include the gem that simply pulls in the appropriate JavaScript. From there, all the configuration and controls for the calendar are done client side via AJAX calls and JavaScript functions. This will provide us a lot of flexibility, because it will allow us to populate the calendar on the fly by using AJAX.

The calendar itself provides everything we would possibly need: Recurring events, callbacks for user events (clicking/dragging an event), multiple views (week/month/day), as well as a lot more:

Full Calendar Documentation

The documentation for the calendar can be found here: <http://fullcalendar.io/docs/>

A full demo can be found here: <http://vinsol.com/fullcalendar-demo>

Some JS Fiddles for tinkering can be found here:

- <http://jsfiddle.net/mccannf/azmjv/16/> (Bootstrapped)
- <http://jsfiddle.net/slicedtoad/duu0dx2t/1/> (Recurring Events)

My Thoughts

I think that with this calendar, we would have the flexibility to do whatever we want. We could also even display events on the calendar/have them entered in via the calendar. Because the calendar populates via AJAX, we can also dynamically load data into it. All in all, this is a great calendar and seems to be the most popular way to implement a calendar on the web.

Alternatives/Add-ons

As mentioned, this seems to be the most popular calendar I could find. The only other calendar I could find that would provide everything we would need was Google Calendars, which are also very easy to implement. The only downside to implementing a google calendar is that Google controls the data and you must have a google account associated with the calendar (or at least I couldn't find how to implement one without doing this).

I also looked into integrating this calendar with Outlook, because I am assuming that Sharing Connections probably uses outlook calendars to schedule things. There is a JavaScript API to integrate with Outlook objects, however, I did not look into how to implement because I figured this would be a last cool thing to add. The documentation on the API can be found here though:

<https://msdn.microsoft.com/office/office365/api/calendar-rest-operations>