

Middle East Technical University



Department of Computer Engineering



‘A Unified News Exchange Server ‘

Project PROPOSAL

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“NewsAgent”

by

i\$T€ Yazılım
i\$T€ Yazılım

Fall, 2006

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1. Team Information

1.1 Company Name

The name of our company is “i\$T€ YAZILIM”.

1.2 Company Members

i\$T€ Team : *iste.newsagent@gmail.com*

Name	Goncagül Demirdizen
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Name	Ali Anıl Sınacı
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1.3 Member Roles

In our project team there will be;

- a project leader who is responsible for the general coordination of the team,
- a recorder who is responsible for recording the points discussed in the meetings,
- a timekeeper who keeps the track of time spent on the meeting,
- an initiator who initiates the meeting and suggest new ideas,
- a gatekeeper who provides that each member states his/her ideas,
- an optimist whose point of view is always positive,

- a devil's advocate who tries to find out missing and faulty points,
- a summarizer who summarizes the ideas discussed during the whole meeting.

These roles are distributed among the members as follows:

Ali Anıl Sınacı: Team Leader, Initiator

Hilal Karaman: Recorder, Summarizer

Goncagül Demirdizen: Gatekeeper, Optimist

Ferhat Şahinkaya: Devil's Advocate, Timekeeper

2. Project Information

2.1 Project Title

The title of our project is "NewsAgent".

2.2 Project Description

Communication has always been a significant aspect in human beings' lives. For this reason, mail lists and USENET news servers were born at the early times of internet. In this project, we are planning to design and implement such a news server, "A Unified News Exchange Server with NNTP, Mail, Web and RSS".

The core of the system will provide an interface to deal with the articles. This core will be responsible for providing the services mainly to read and post articles. These functionalities will be provided as web services and also other extension modules will be built on this core.

Apparently, our core will implement a USENET news server. Articles will be saved in a central repository which will locate on the server. This concept requires a very good file management. Indexing, cross-referencing and expiration of old messages are all concerning details of this management. Figure 1 General View of NewsAgent shows a graphical view of the main system basically.

Extension modules will provide different access methods for end-users. Users will be able to access the articles through the browsers, e-mails, RSS and NNTP. These access methods all require secure ways to carry the articles between the server and the clients.

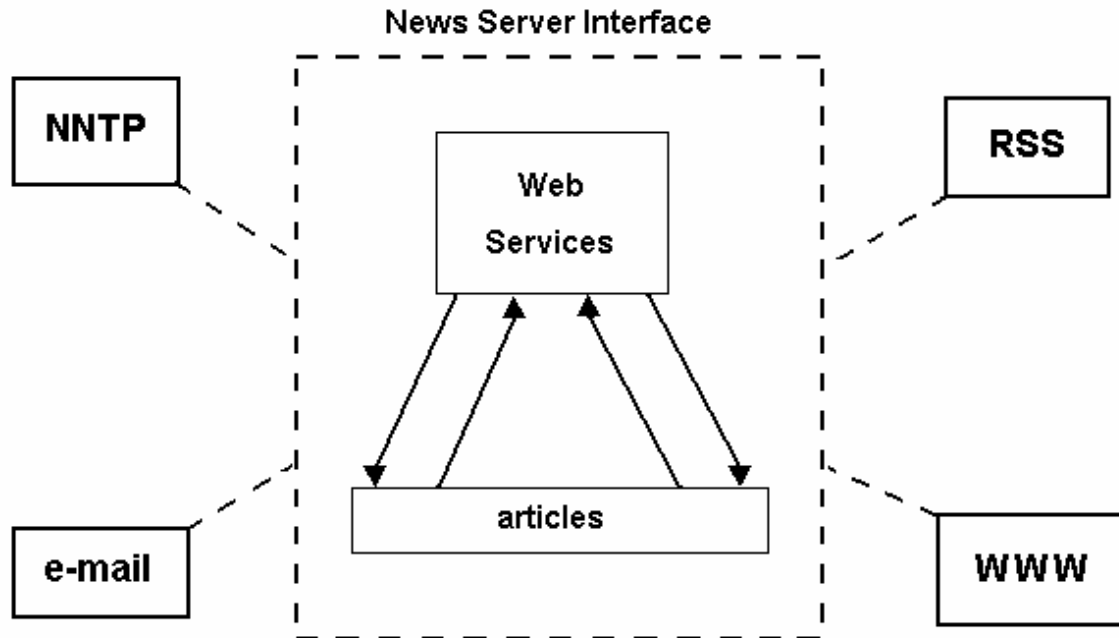


Figure 1 General View of NewsAgent

2.4 Usage Area

Today, news servers and mail forums are very popular. This means sharing the information creates a problem in the internet world and we propose a new solution to this problem. We combine the two popular methods for distributing the information. NewsAgent offers both the direct mailing and USENET news system. By this way, we will spread the usage of these systems and serve as a bridge to distribute the information.

Possible usage areas can be listed as follows :

- Universities and Colleges: Students can share information about courses, activities and experience. Announcements can be published through NewsAgent easily. More people can be aware of the announcements and shared information by less cost.
- Large Companies: Different projects may need individual communication platforms. NewsAgent provides this platform for this purposes.
- International Organizations: Big international organizations require inter-connection platforms for different going on international projects.

- Social Communications: Friendship activities, matchmaking, general purpose announcements, governmental activities among people who belong to a particular group.

2.5 Initial Ideas and Intended Features

No matter how powerful your product is, at first glance, it is evaluated according to its appearance by end-users. Thus, we aim to design a user-friendly and consistent graphical user interface.

Administrators of the system will be able to specify access rights of users. Depending on the specifications, users will be able to reach all newsgroups, reach only some selected groups or will not be able to reach any newsgroup. Access rights of each user will vary according to his/her login information.

By the help of RSS, users will be able to see new posts, without sending new requests to refresh the list of the news.

End-users will be able to adjust their mailing options to state if they want to receive each new post via e-mail. In addition to that, users will be able to decide on groups from which they want to receive e-mail.

3. Conclusion

In today's technological platform, sharing information is one of the most important issues for both programmers and users. Therefore, developing existing systems, adding new features to them and designing new applications in this area are unavoidable requirements. In order to contribute to meeting these requirements, we have decided to work on “News Exchange Server” project. We also consider that our future projects will require knowledge and experience we gained while creating NewsAgent and we want to take advantage of it.

From the beginning to the end, the whole process will be heavy-loaded and challenging, however, by the help of our coordination and team spirit we will easily come over these difficulties. We believe when NewsAgent takes its place in the market, users will easily realize the differences between earlier products and NewsAgent.