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MigroSoft, Weekly Progress Report #8

In the last week we were all engaged in preparing the demonstration for this week's meeting. So different from the previous weeks' progress reports, this week's report does not include individual works. Since this demonstration module will constitute a base for the GUVERCIN’s prototype, we first decided to overview the news and mail servers that we will use in our project. After analyzing INN, we have decided that it will not be a suitable server for GÜVERCİN because INN does not provide a user-friendly administrator management interface. Therefore we have examined other open source news servers.

The first news server we examined was PHPInn. Although PHPInn provides an http interface for the admin and users, it does not have an easy compatibility with the smtp servers that we will use in our product. And also WebNews and Noffle softwares provides http interface for the news server but their smtp compatibility fails in some aspects.

After we understood that we can not install news and mail servers seperately, we decided to use Apache James which provides an NNTP, SMTP and POP3 servers in one package. After we had installed Apache James and created newsgroups and users, we succeeded connecting the news server from a remote machine and
by using it we have posted an article, replied it and also established a secure connection with authentication. We also established a connection to the smtp and pop3 servers between the localhost and local client and sent mail to the localhost server and other mail servers like gmail. But there were two things we could not done. The first one is, we could not be able to connect to the smtp and pop3 servers from a remote machine. Though, it was not a big problem for us. The main problem was that we were not able to post an article as a mail to the subscribed users. In order to overcome with this problem we have found an open source phyton script which runs as web service on linux and windows systems. The module basicly runs at every 10 minutes and sends the incoming post request(s) to the specified users. After running this script we have achieved posting the nntp post to the specified user and completed the demonstration part for the meeting.

We have also found an http interface for our nntp server which is the same as the http interface of our department's news server. We have also integrated this module to our software and we had connected to the local news server by using this interface.