Chapter 13

Setting Up Services for Mobile Devices

Mac OS X Server can act as a centralized server to allow your users to communicate with one another when they are not in the office. This includes two services. The first is Mobile Access, which allows a Mac OS X Server acting as a proxy to be placed into a demilitarized zone in your network environment. This device would then be exposed to potential threats from the outside world while also acting as a single point of contact for clients to access your collaborative servers when they are outside your network environment. The demilitarized zone is then the only point of contact with the outside world, and you can granularly configure controls between the hosts in your demilitarized zone and those on your internal network.

The second remote connectivity feature is Push Notification. Push Notification is new in Mac OS X Server 10.6 and comes with a number of design requirements as of this writing, which we will cover in this chapter. Push Notification was specifically designed for the iPhone, although until the next release (4.0) of the iPhone software, the Push Notification service is not that useful because push services are not able to be leveraged.

Installing Mobile Access and Push Notification

The first step to setting up either Mobile Access or Push Notification is to show the service in Server Admin. To do so, open Server Admin from /Applications/Server. After authenticating, click the name of the server where you will be installing the service, and open the server’s base settings. Here, click the Settings icon in the toolbar to open the service selection screen, where you can configure which services will run on the server (simply enabling them in this screen will not start them), as shown in Figure 13–1.
Select the box for the appropriate service (either Push Notification or Mobile Access—or both), and then click the Save button. You should then see the service appear in the SERVERS list when you click the disclosure triangle. Click the Settings icon in the Server Admin toolbar to open the settings that Apple has provided for that service.

**Setting Up Mobile Access**

Now that you have enabled the services, you will want to start and configure the services that you need. The first service that we’ll cover is Mobile Access. Mobile Access provides reverse proxy functionality for the Mac OS X collaborative services. This includes Mail, iCal, iChat, and web services (sadly, Mobile Access does not cover the built-in Mac OS X Wikis service).

By proxying connections, you have fewer hosts to secure, and you can place the server proxying those connections into a demilitarized zone and therefore allow as small a footprint of items exposed outside your network as possible. To properly leverage the Mobile Access server, though, you’re going to need a demilitarized zone. Figure 13–2 shows the layout of this.