

Pooka

An Open Source Email Client

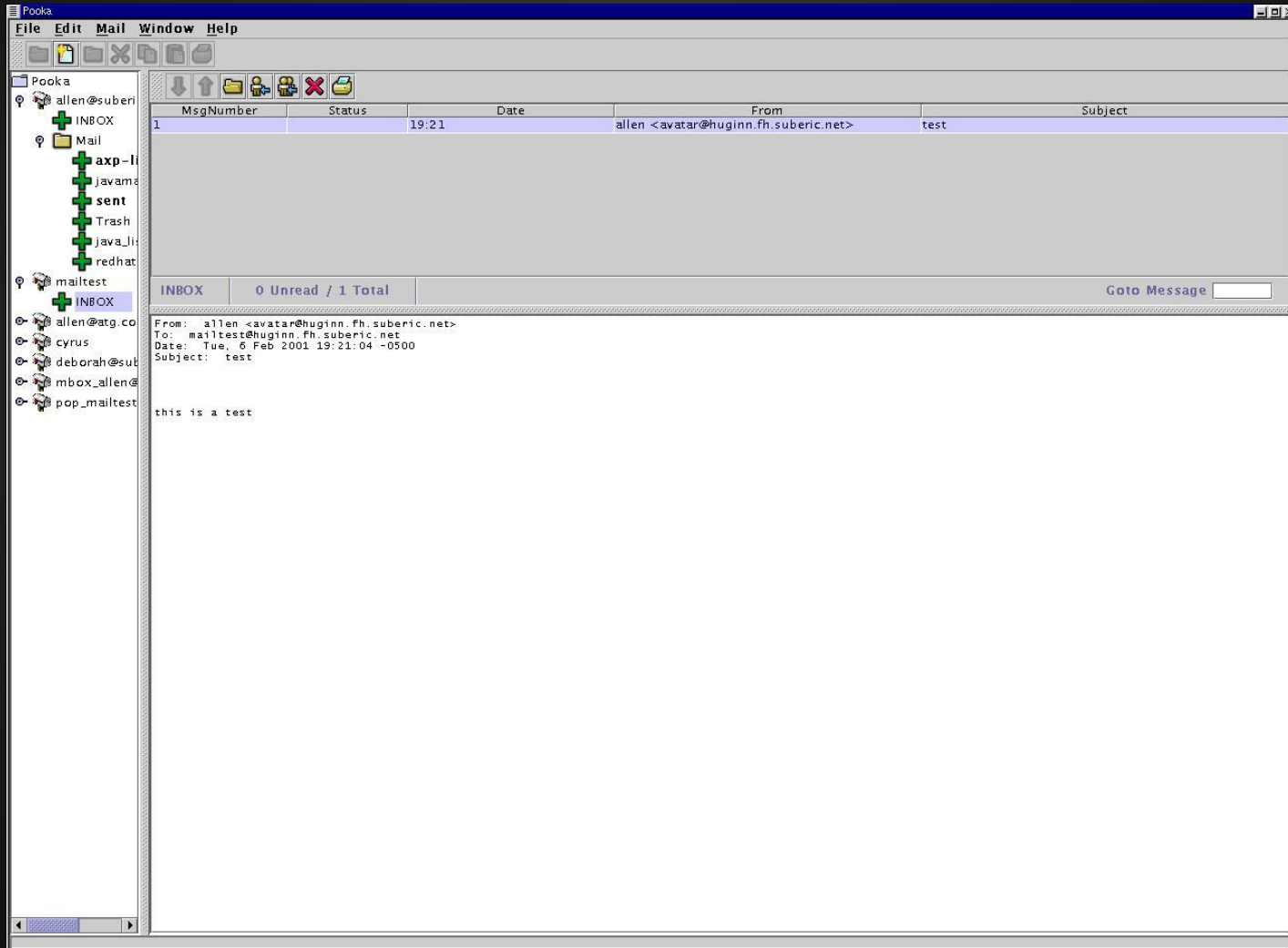
Pooka - What is it?

- Open source email client
- Written in Java
- Created by one developer
- Has not been updated since August 2010

Pooka - How it was

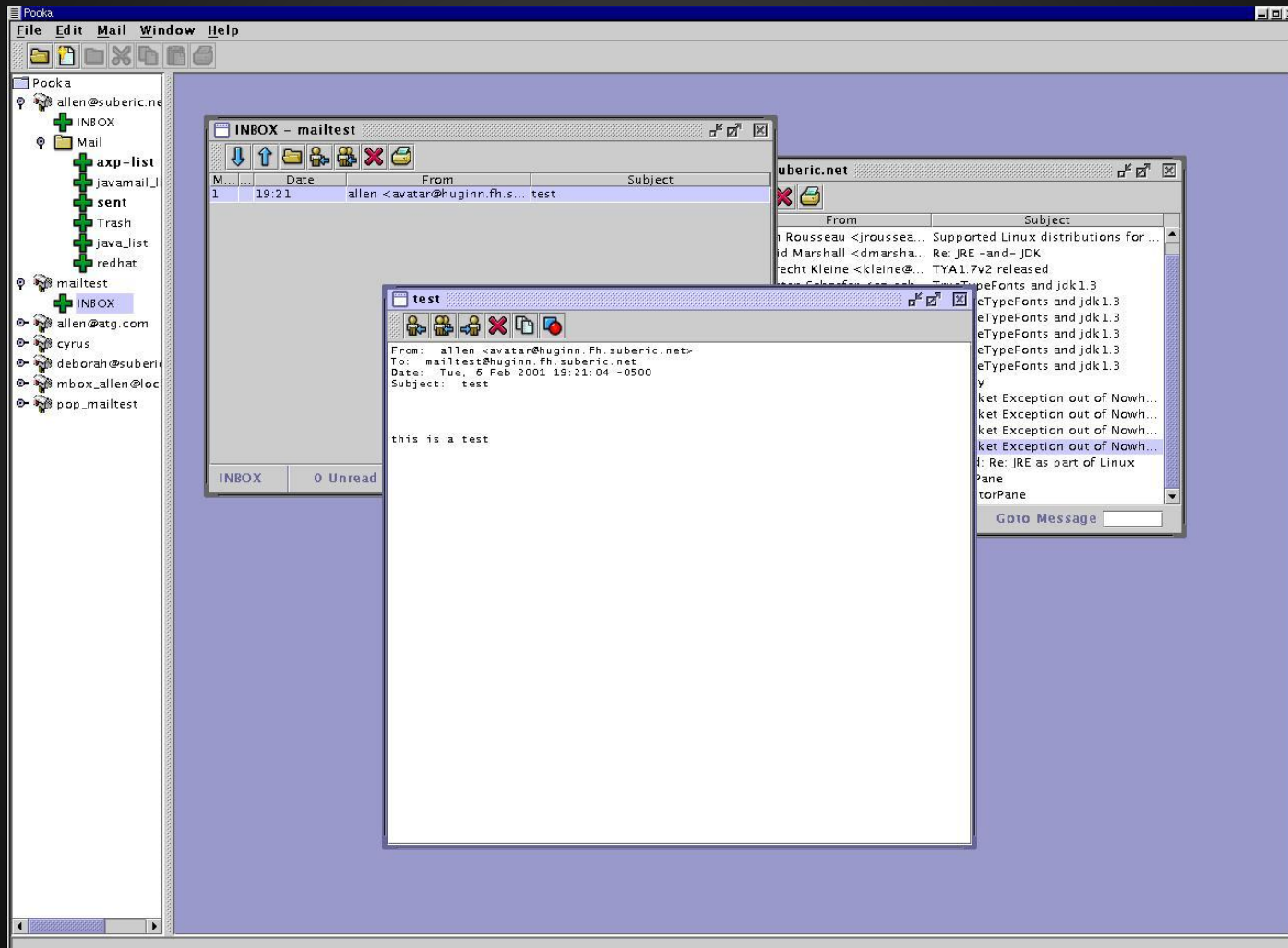
- Lets you connect to any number of email servers
 - Supported protocols: IMAP, POP3, SMTP
 - Also supports UNIX mbox folders
- Stores an address book of contacts
 - Not fully implemented
- Has two different interface modes
 - Preview mode - Similar in appearance to Outlook
 - Desktop mode - Similar in appearance to an extinct email client called Eudora

Pooka - Preview Mode

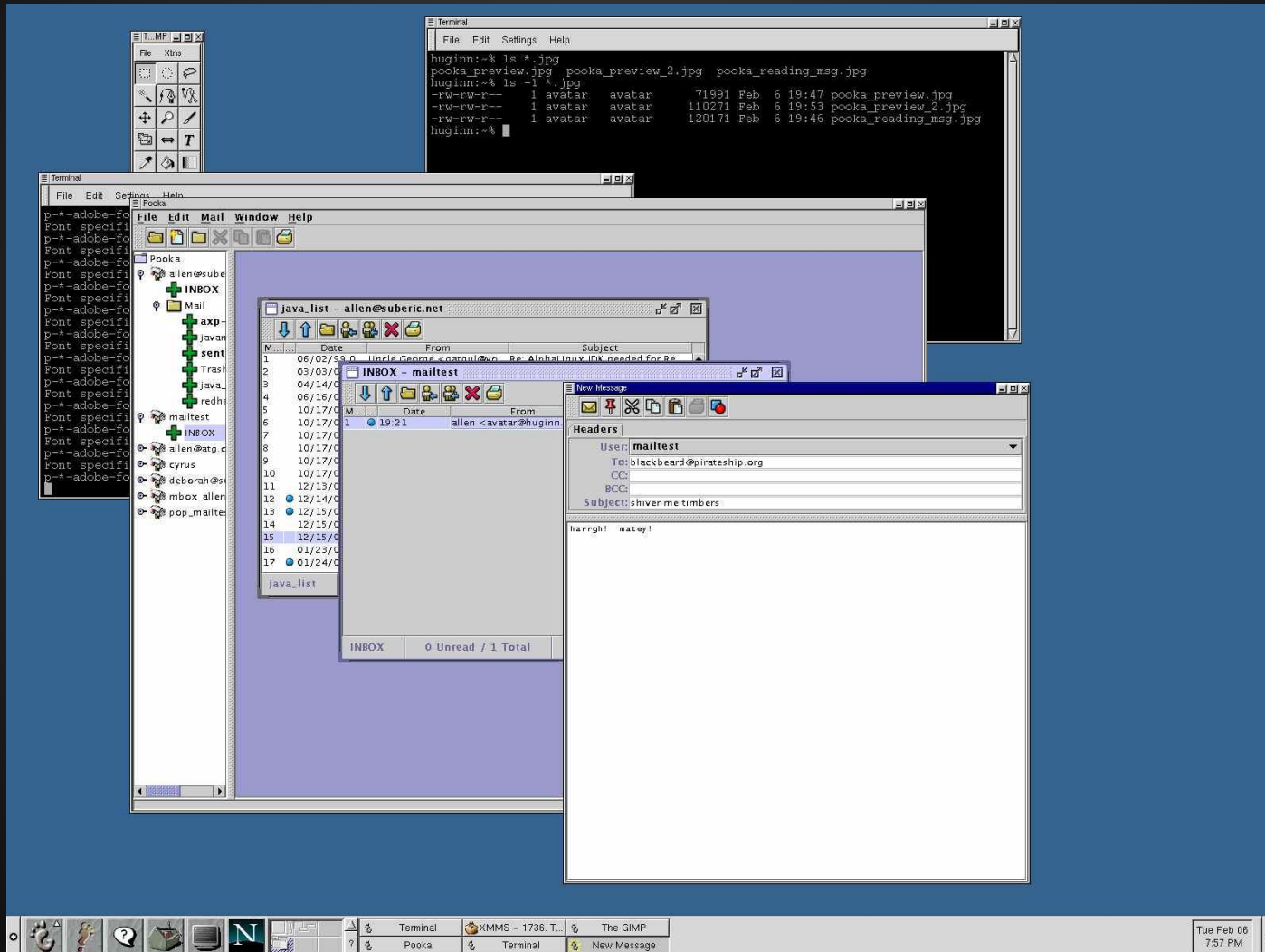


Images from: <http://www.suberic.net/pooka/screenshot.html>

Pooka - Desktop Mode



Pooka - Desktop Mode



Images from: <http://www.suberic.net/pooka/screenshot.html>

Pooka - Opportunities for Design

- Icons are often unclear
 - No separators between icon groupings
 - Interface is lacking tooltips
- Desktop Mode looks cluttered
 - Windows could be dragged outside the viewable area
 - What are the advantages to Desktop Mode?
- Viewing messages needs work
 - Cannot set HTML view as default for messages
 - Header info. (to, from, subject) is not visually separated from email body

Pooka - Opportunities for Design

- No indication of when messages were last retrieved from the server
- There is no way to set the SMTP port number when creating an account
- The Help menus are incomplete
 - The sections that are actually complete are too out of date to provide any useful information

Pooka - Reimagined

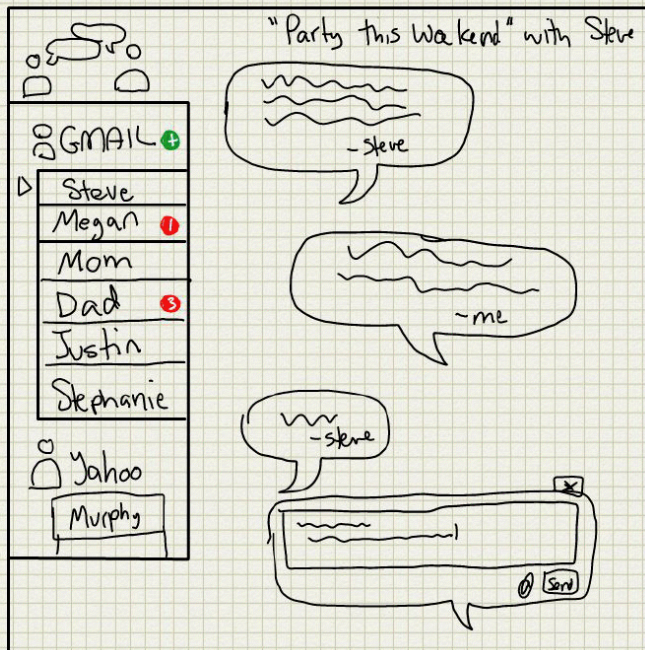
- Goals
 - Reduce interface clutter
 - Reduce learning curve by using more intuitive icons and adding tooltips
 - Reduce user errors like forgetting to add attachments to an email
 - Keep Pooka distinct from other email clients
 - Non-threatening, friendly appearance
- Two main metaphors were considered by our group
 - Email as a Postal System
 - Email as a Conversation

Pooka - Conversation

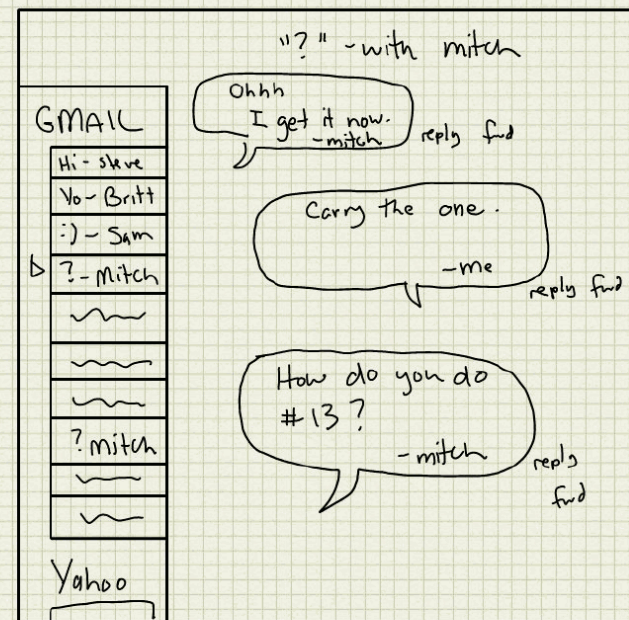
- Focus on dialogue between people
- Messages grouped by person, then subject
- Content displayed in chronological order
- Different colours indicate different speakers for an email chain between multiple people
 - Colour for a contact is set in the Address Book

Pooka - Conversation - Concepts

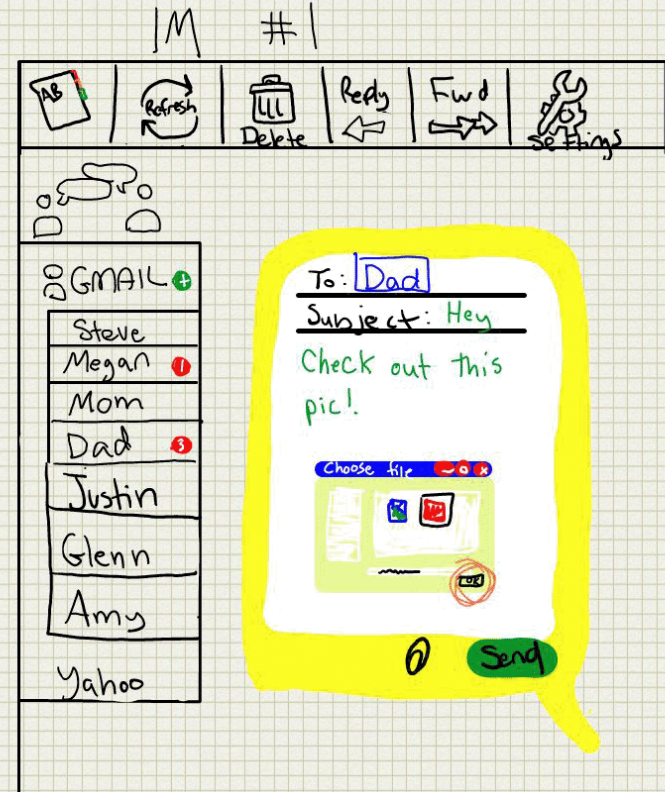
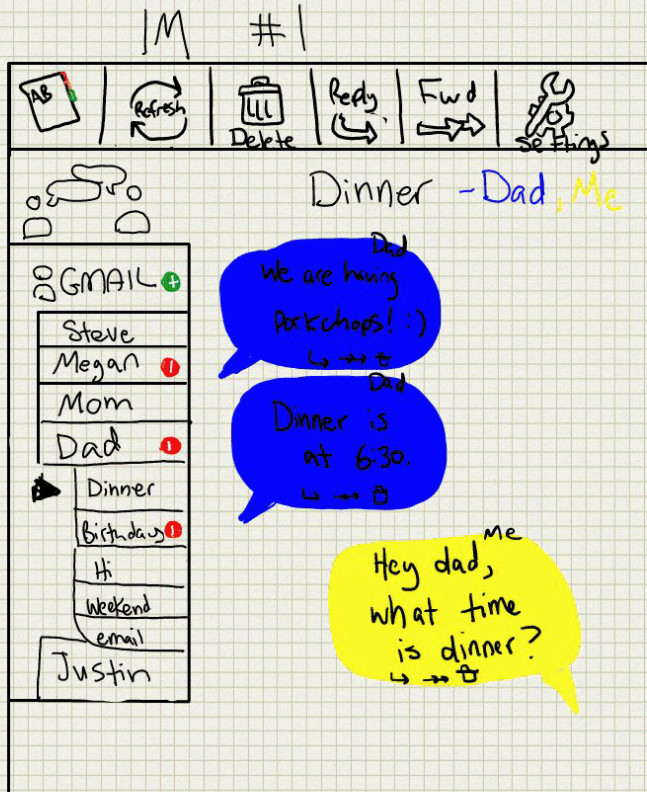
IM #1



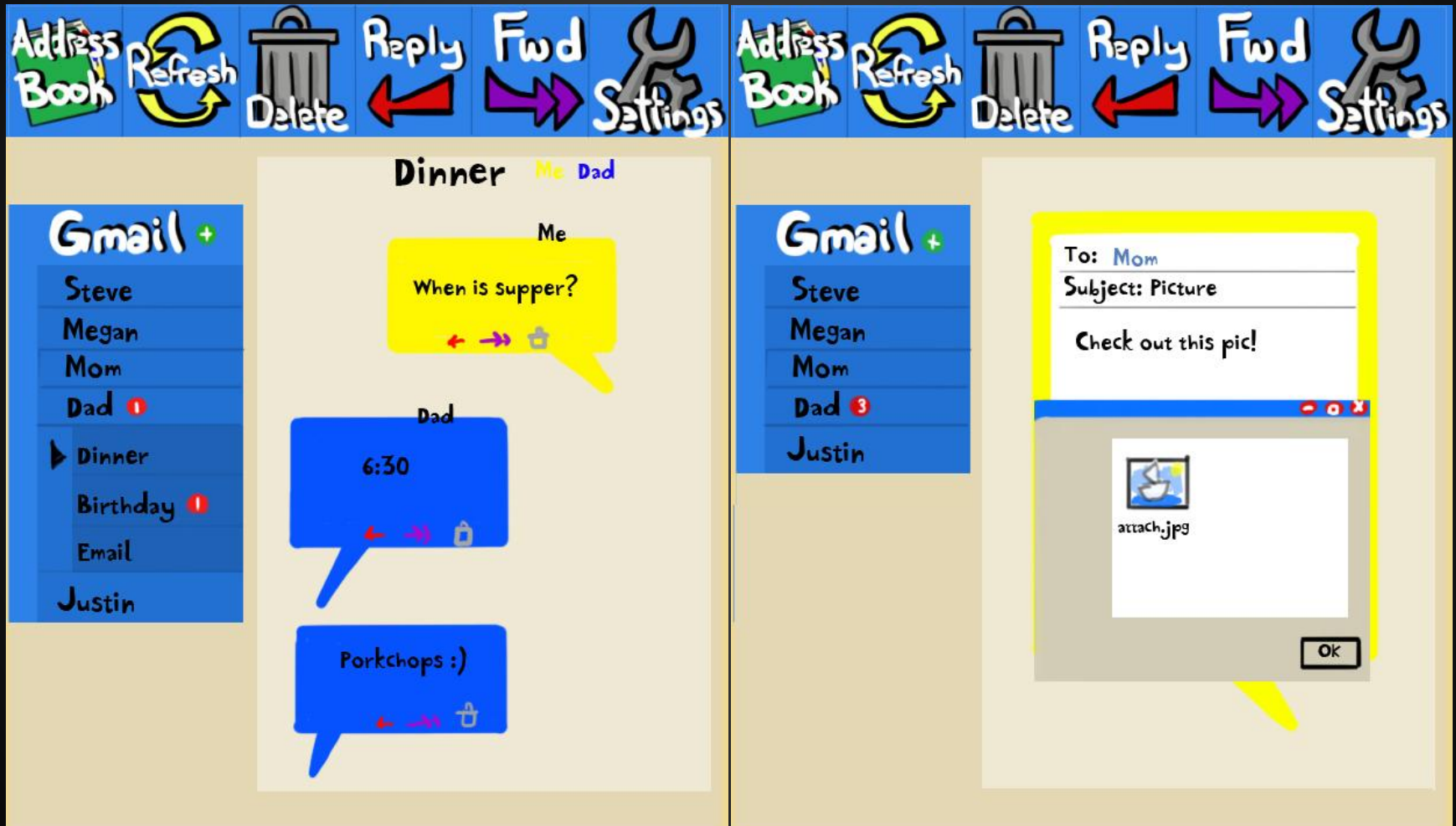
IM #2



Pooka - Conversation - Edit 1



Pooka - Conversation - Final



Conversation - Edits

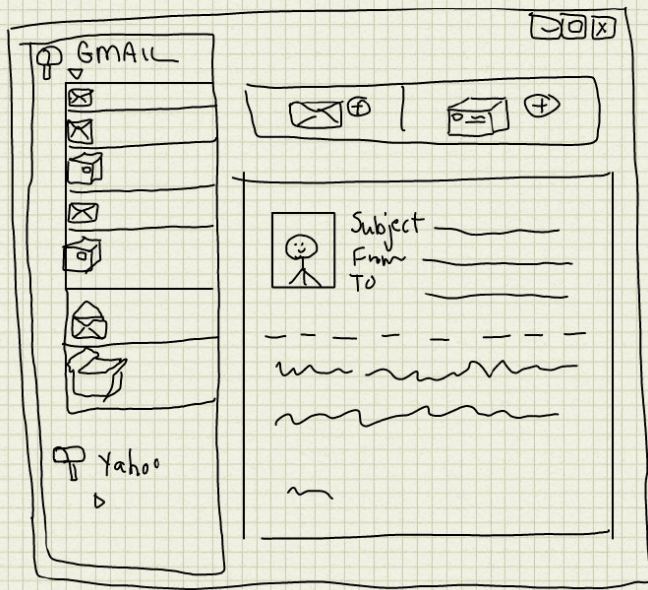
- Order of the messages
 - Previously newest at the top
 - Final design has newest at the bottom
- Subdivision of subjects
 - First concept didn't subdivide by subject. This was added in the first edit

Pooka - Post Office

- Focus on similarities to postal system
- Two types of message
 - Mail - A standard text/HTML message
 - Parcel - One or more files plus an optional text/HTML message
 - Offers the advantage of having you attach files first so you don't forget to do it
- Similar interface to existing email clients to reduce the learning curve

Pooka - Post Office - Concepts

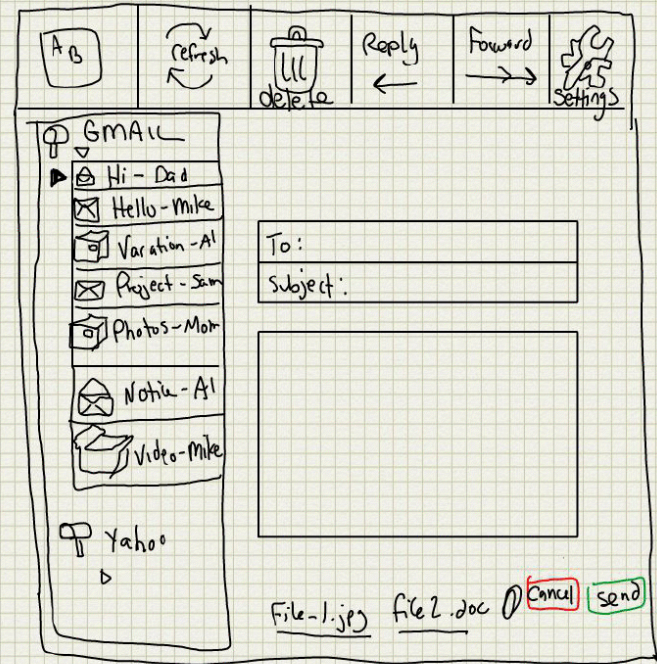
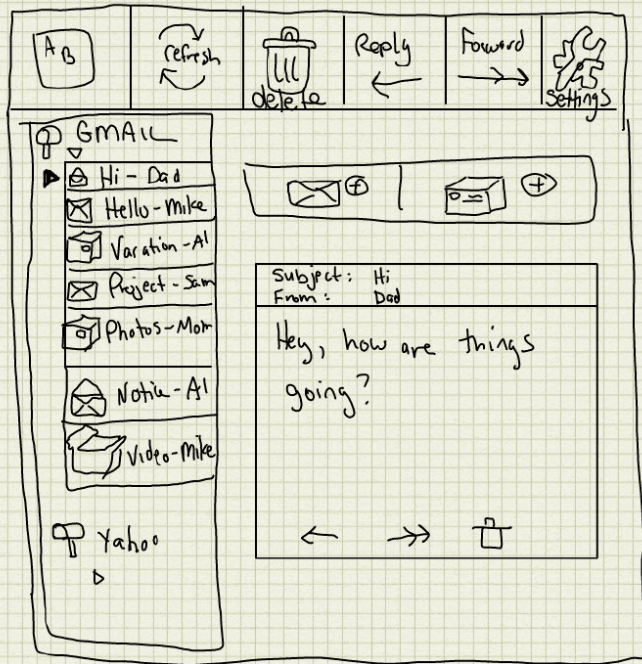
Post office - Traditional



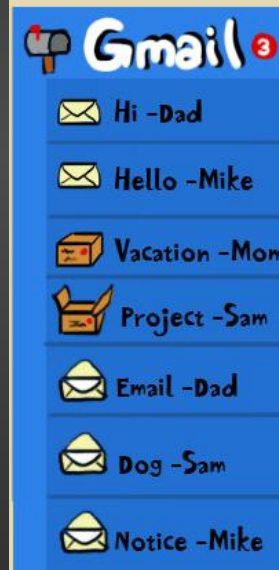
Post office - Crazy



Pooka - Post Office - Edit 1



Pooka - Conversation - Final



Post Office - Edits

- Removed the post office worker graphic
 - After some review, the postman helper concept was removed as it cluttered the screen
 - Similar issue as with Microsoft Office's Clippy
- Changed the postal box look for accounts
 - Original concept had a postal shelf with the user's accounts
 - Was found to be awkward for quick use

Pooka

Questions?