File 20100421.1230: Notes from Larry Brown's roadmap meeting today at noon, presented by Brandon, on SMTP receiveing and processing in RM 5.0:

Interestingly, RM input channel framing breaks on SMTP. Once it has designated `\015\012` as an EOM, it can't detect a superset EOM of `\015\012.\015\012`. The only solution is do define a new 'SMTP' EOM type. That's what they are going to do after RM 5.0 is certified, but not to rock the boat now (despite Ruth's strong advocacy to do it now). For now, a short Perl script acts as a middleman between the SMTP server and RM, eating the `\015\012.\015\012` EOM and sending RM something it can deal with.

I asked whether RM handles RFC 5321 EHLO clients, and Brandon said it does. It also handles clients that send gibberish, within the timeout set by the SMTP server.

It took sixteen to eighteen years to discover this framing weakness, because until now, RM has always disavowed SMTP traffic. MIME has a few tricky parts about processing it as well, the developer has begun to discover. With the Perl script trick, though, RM does fully support SMTP traffic in both directions now. It just took some hacking to get it to go.

References