Project title: Automated Collection and Manipulation of Email (A.C.M.E)

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**Abstract**

The ACME project aims to provide individuals of highly technical but non-CS (Computer Science) backgrounds a toolkit for extracting statistical and linguistic data from their email inbox. Though we state this as the primary point of the project, the initial exploration that led us to discover it came from the observation that “On average, professionals have more than 200 emails in their inbox and receive 120 new ones each day but respond to only 25% of them”, according a 2019 Harvard Business Review article titled “How to Spend Way Less Time on Email Every Day”, by Matt Plummer.

The disparity between the number of messages received, and the number of responses generated is indicative of a few problems. Though, no small amount of that disparity is due to an endless tide of garbage messages, not all of which are always captured by even the most sophisticated industry provided filters. But that’s where the value of the ACME project can be most easily seen. The power of the individual to create custom solutions to their own unique or edge-case problems serves well in a few ways.

First, it allows for the rapid implementation of a solution to a localized problem. This means you don’t have to wait for the I.T. staff for your company or institution to get around to your issue ticket. It also means that you do not have to go through the often-befuddling process of helping your I.T. staff recreate the issue. Second, it is probable that someone else has already faced if not solved a similar issue on the project’s issue tracker. Allowing you to scaffold your solution around existing and working code.

Finally empowering a consumer community to create their own custom solutions to problems also means that scientist and researchers conducting research in closed or highly secured networks don’t have to risk exposing confidential information to a third party curator in order to have access to maintain custom classifiers and organizational tools for their team communications. The interaction with a local imap host server can be kept completely in-house.