

## PROPOSAL: RSS-BASED EMAIL READER

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**Problem:** Email access and reading has changed little in nearly 30 years. In the last decade, web-based email access has grown in popularity, but the only real change this development has introduced is to move the accessing client from a user's desktop to a remote server, and move the email UI from a dedicated application into a web browser.

We propose to provide the user with email access through RSS feeds, which would open new methods of access and interaction to the user; there are dedicated RSS aggregators that would be able to view the email feeds (many users spend significant time in these applications already, and email integration would presumably be beneficial), and many modern browsers are integrating RSS support into their browsing interface (like Firefox – <http://sage.mozdev.org/>, and Safari - <http://www.apple.com/macosx/tiger/safari.html>).

**Target Audience:** Generally, the target audience for this concept would be any email user (isn't that everybody?). Specifically, this prototype will be tailored for use within the Computer Science Department as a primary or alternative email access system, with potential integration into the departmental intranet, CSNet.

**Methodology:** Since we both work for the Computer Support Group within the Computer Science department, we have access to the appropriate resources and infrastructure needed to implement this system. We can easily recruit co-workers and peer students (the eventual users of the system) for informal user testing and evaluation.