Figure 1: Displaying email threads by Subject
This visualization groups emails into threads by subject, then displays them on a page with the following characteristics:

- When a new thread is started, a bubble with its subject is created at the top of the page
- As time moves on, the threads get smaller and move lower on the page until eventually disappearing
- The further to the left a thread is, the slower it will move down the page
- Popular topics will grow proportionately to the number of emails in the thread, and will get a temporary reprieve from moving lower on the page
- Threads may be moved around the page according to how important the user finds the message
  - Moving a thread lower will cause it to get smaller and disappear from the page sooner (gaining progress down the page)
  - Moving a thread to the right will cause it to move down the page quicker (gaining velocity down the page)
- The vertical bar on the left is the “skid pad”
  - Threads placed here will not move down the page, but will instead get smaller and move to the right.
  - Threads placed on the skid pad will remain until removed. They will not disappear.
- Clicking any thread brings up the text for that thread for reading

The visualization offers opportunities to collect data on where a user puts certain email. Algorithms could begin placing new emails on the page based on any combination of:

- Who the email is from
- How many people the email was sent to
- Whether the user/recipient was in the ‘to’, ‘cc’, or ‘bcc’ list
- If the email was forwarded or a reply to an email sent by the user