Scenario:

I often read an email that I need to either respond to or address in some manner (example: notifications to pay online bills don't need to be "replied to." However, sometimes I am not prepared to address the email right away. In some cases, the time sensitive email gets lost in my inbox. I often have to respond with the embarrassed phrase: "I'm sorry I took so long in responding..."

Solution: Email Mine Field

Email mine field...

When an email arrives in your inbox, it can be associated with a time it must be replied to or addressed in some way shape or form. These emails are arranged as bombs in a mine field with the length of the fuse representing time. This small multiples representation of email gives the user an idea of how many emails are on their to do list and how long they can put off each one. If a bomb explodes, you must either respond, take care of whatever it was telling you to do, or discard it completely. If a bomb is addressed, (or you decide you will just ignore it), it can be manually deleted from the inbox mine field (and saved as a normal email in the archives). Emails that are replied to are automatically "defused" and removed from the mine field. There could potentially be a reward for an empty mine field, as long as it is a reward and not something completely obnoxious.
**Email Mine field.** This explosive visualization could potentially be the source of great fun... or stress. The user has to rush to respond to an email...before it detonates. Each bomb can display the subject of the email, the sender, and/or a countdown to detonation.