The idea for this history interface, is to show the user the basic content of messages using emoticons. The main screen is divided like a graph with the names of e-mail senders on the y coordinate ordered by number of messages. On the x coordinate the date's are shown. The user can scroll up or down, and left or right to see more people and dates. He can also skip to a specific month or year. I have given an image of what the interface would basically look like below.
As you can see scrolling to an emoticon tells you the date of the message. If it is clicked the message pops up. If multiple messages were sent by the same person, the emoticon of the majority of messages shows up with the number of messages shown in the upper right corner of the emoticon, clicking on it this time brings up all the messages sent on that day by the person. We can also install a search feature to search through names and bring the user to the right part of the graph. I have made a crude implementation as I am not very good with graphic programs.

The messages are automatically categorized by work or friend depending on who the messages have been sent to (just the user or multiple people). The user can add extra categories and then can flag messages when they come into the inbox. Clicking on the name or date on the margins brings up the graph of only those days or people. We can see that as a user it is easy to see what messages to look at, and it's also a summary of the time past, as you can just look at the emoticons of different people and see how the relationship developed. It is also a nice way to categorize messages, and the smiley faces give a fun interface. It also gives the users the ability to add their own categories and smiley's. We can also modify this system to work for sent messages. Nothing would have to be changed in the interface. The user can just be linked to this interface from the mail software itself.