There are three features of receiving emails. First, emails are usually not properly sorted when you read them, important mails and spam are all in a file. Second, how important the mail is can’t really be told by the history interaction between the sender and you. You may receive an important notification from a person that never send you a mail before. That’s the reason people struggling in reading every mail. The third one is depends on how you read mails, I am the case that read mails from up of the list to the bottom one, it’s quite unfair last reading mails that send you first.

I don’t receive lots of emails each day. The approximate number is 20 per day. Half of them are newsletter and advertisement which I may choose to leave them unopened or throw into the garbage bin. Sometimes I would read the important ones before I clean up the files. The problem I encounter here in this situation is that sometimes you just can’t avoid open some mails you don’t intend to read especially when you just have some limited time to read.

My preference of reading email is to select one that I’m interested in, read it, reply, decide to throw into the garbage bin or keep it and then I would click the inbox again to select another mail. The reason I never use the “next mail” feature is because I can’t remember the order of the mails.

The design is trying to separate mails into groups: family, friends, school, newsletter and other. The other category is for those who send you email the first time. In this way, I could easily choose to read mails in one category and leave the newsletters unopened till weekend. The dark purple squares represent for mails you have opened and the light purple ones are for the new coming mails. I wish my mail box to show new received mails since my last time open the mailbox, so they would show these new mails first. Then I may choose to expend one category to get mails that I have got earlier.