The future of an accessible email client

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Introduction

• How to bring email to illiterate or cognitive/motor impaired people?

• Provide adapted software:
  ○ Simplified GUI:
    ○ representative icons
    ○ audio feedback
    ○ single clicks
  ○ Text to speech to read email
  ○ Audio recording to send email (no speech to text)
  ○ Address book displayed through photos
The end of v1:
- Feature complete for the branch
- No longer maintainable (spent devs)
- Scalability dead end (performances, feature and env)

The rise of v2:
- New features
- New architecture
- New perspectives

→ Rebuild the project with a rock solid base to later focus on accessibility.
Find a way for V2

- One certainty: throw everything away and restart!

- Two ways of achieving desired goal:
  - Build upon existing client
  - Build from components
Build upon existing client?

- Different clients considered
  - Thunderbird seemed the best option

- Thunderbird Extension?
  - Unstable APIs (legacy dropped, Addon SDK not fully supported, WebExtensions coming)
  - TB has been dropped officially from Mozilla
Build from components

• Perspectives:
  ◦ New architecture
  ◦ Stable code base
  ◦ Split between base and M2V specific features

• Issues:
  ◦ Lot of (re)work
Architecture overview

- **GUI**
  - Audio API Ext
  - TTS API Ext
  - Contacts API Ext
- **Adapter**
- **Alternative GUI**
- **Public API**
  - Contacts Manager
- **Core**
  - Wrapper
  - Audio recorder & player
  - Wrapper
  - TTS
- **Libs**
  - Wrapper
  - IMAP/POP/SMTP Module
  - Wrapper
  - Storage (FS/DB)
- **Client base**
Roadmap

- **January**
  - Project start: done ✓
  - Functional specifications: done ✓
  - Study of existing solutions/components: pending ✗

- **February**
  - Architecture design
  - Data models, interfaces, components design

- **March**
  - Architecture validation
  - HMI design
  - Development roadmap
Future thoughts

- Accessibility: Just DO IT!
- Other kinds of public
- Derivatives projects?
  - Other forms of email clients
  - GUI concepts reproduced for different software
- Beyond email?
  - Video/audio chat
Conclusion

- Mail2Voice Next is on track
- Still in early design stage
- Large amount of work to expect
- Far more exciting!
Conclusion

- Mail2Voice Next is on track
- Still in early design stage
- Large amount of work to expect
- Far more exciting than v1!
Thank you! Questions?

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