Contexts

Contexts for IMAP
draft-cridland-imap-context-00

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At http://dave.cridland.net/slides.html
in OpenOffice.org, PDF, HTML, with notes.

Contexts

- A SEARCH/SORT "Toolbox" extension, gives:
  - Filtered views (Provided by IMAP SEARCH/SORT)
  - Virtual Scrollbars (PARTIAL)
  - Updated Results (NOTIFY)
- Aimed at ad-hoc view filtering.
  - Predefined filters possible, by saving search criteria.

Minimal Implementation

- SEARCH CONTEXTs can be implemented easily. SORT are harder.

- Servers:

    - Re-execute SEARCH for every PARTIAL.

    - Ignore CONTEXT.

    - Small amount of special code for NOTIFY.

    - No need to hold results.

- Obvious optimizations.

For ACAP People

- CONTEXTs crucial feature of ACAP

- CONTEXTs tricky in ACAP, not in IMAP:
  - No non-NOTIFY contexts – no snapshots
  - RANGE search criterion becomes PARTIAL return option; no method for SEARCHing CONTEXTs.
  - But no method for creating a CONTEXT, only a hint.

- But basic functionality lifted from ACAP

Most importantly

- 'X' character in capability string.
  - Essential for success.

Open Issues

- Turn CONTEXT from hint to requirement?

  – No way to know when this broken: PARTIAL / NOTIFY essentially imply CONTEXT anyway.

- Do we try for SORT now, or later?

  – SORT support really nice, but raises the bar.

  – Could do CONTEXTS=SORT in this doc or a later one.

Open Issues 2

- Resynchronization is hard.

    - Working out which messages no longer match is th difficult bit.

    - Easy solution is to punt – recreate context from scratch.

Questions?

- Questions later?
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