hack your email with notmuch

David Bremner

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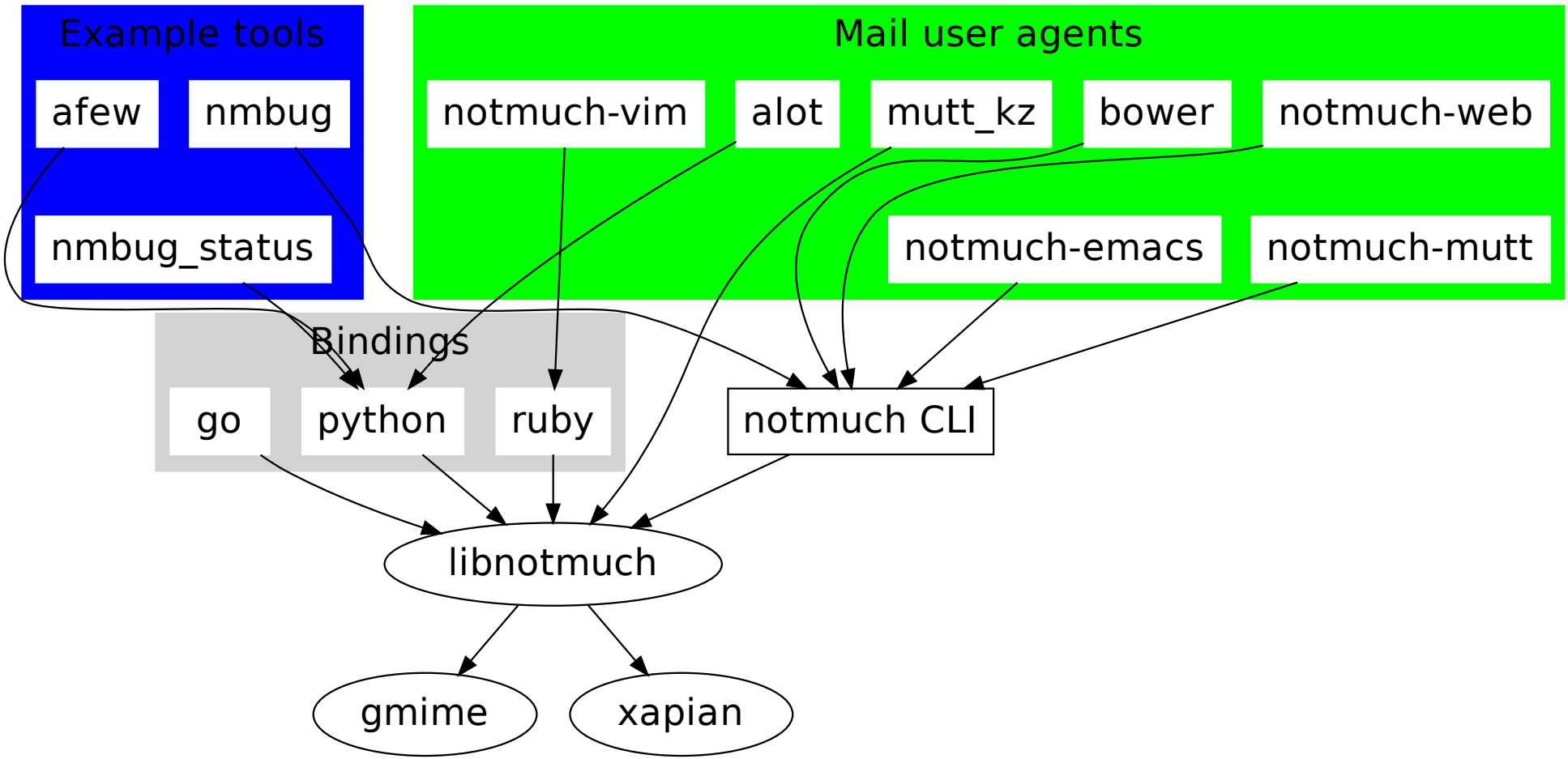
What is notmuch?

A library/command-line tool for

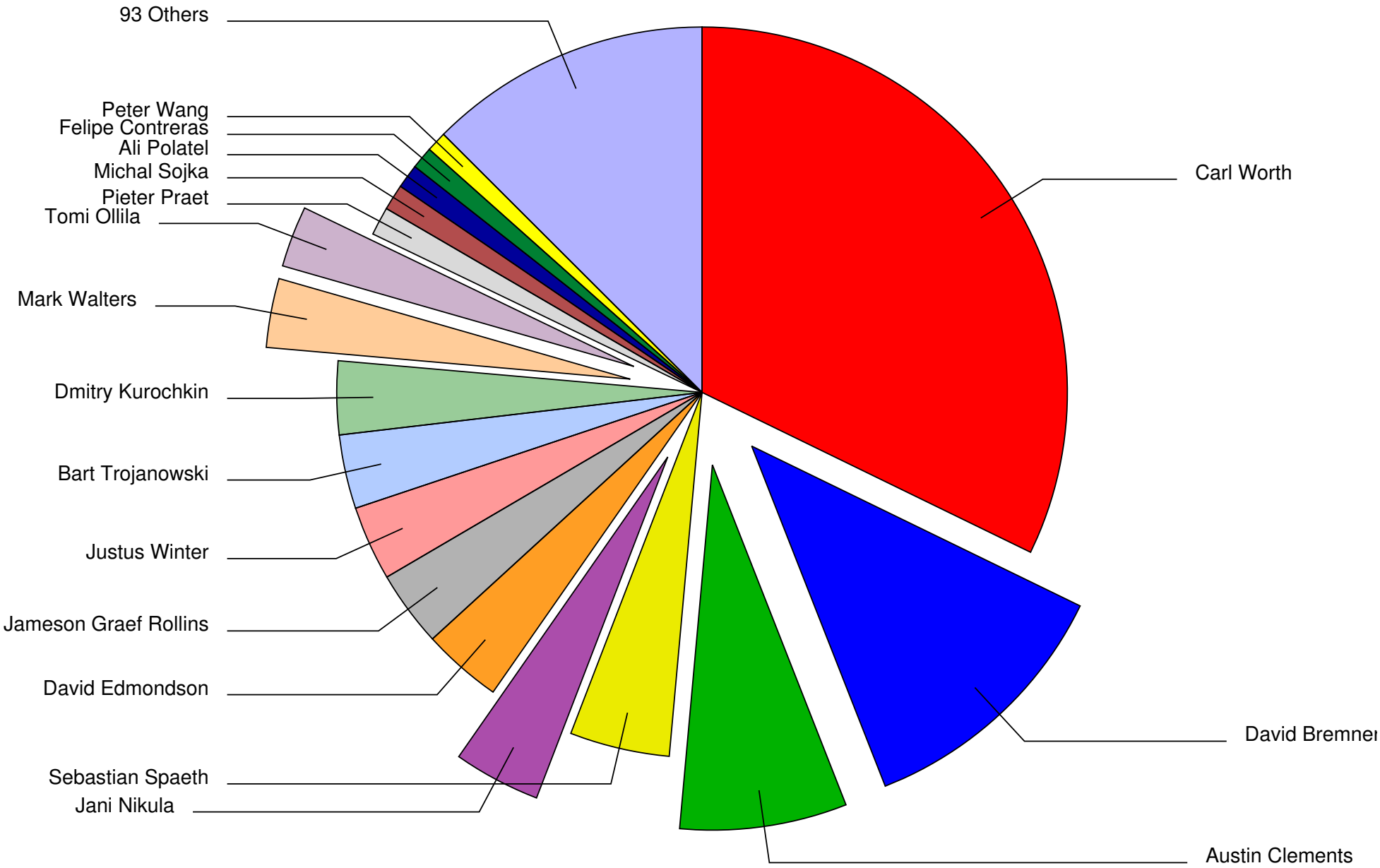
- indexing,
- tagging, and
- searching

a local email store, one message per file.

The notmuch “ecosystem”



Bus factor 5?


93 Others
Peter Wang
Felipe Contreras
Ali Polatel
Michal Sojka
Pieter Praet
Tomi Ollila
Mark Walters
Dmitry Kurochkin
Bart Trojanowski
Justus Winter
Jameson Graef Rollins
David Edmondson
Sebastian Spaeth
Jani Nikula
Carl Worth
David Bremner
Austin Clements

On the command line

Commands

```
notmuch count [options...]  <search-term>...
notmuch dump  [<filename> ] [--]  [ <search-term>...]
notmuch search [options...] <search-term>...
notmuch show [options...] <search-term>...
notmuch tag  +<tag>|-<tag> [...] [--]  <search-term>...
```

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notmuch show [options...] <search-term>...
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```

Query Syntax

```
from:<name-or-address>                  to:<name-or-address>
subject:<word-or-quoted-phrase>    attachment:<suffix>
tag:<tag> (or is:<tag>)                 id:<message-id>
thread:<thread-id>                folder:<directory-path>
date:<since>..<until>
```

On the command line

Query Syntax

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subject:<word-or-quoted-phrase>           attachment:<suffix>
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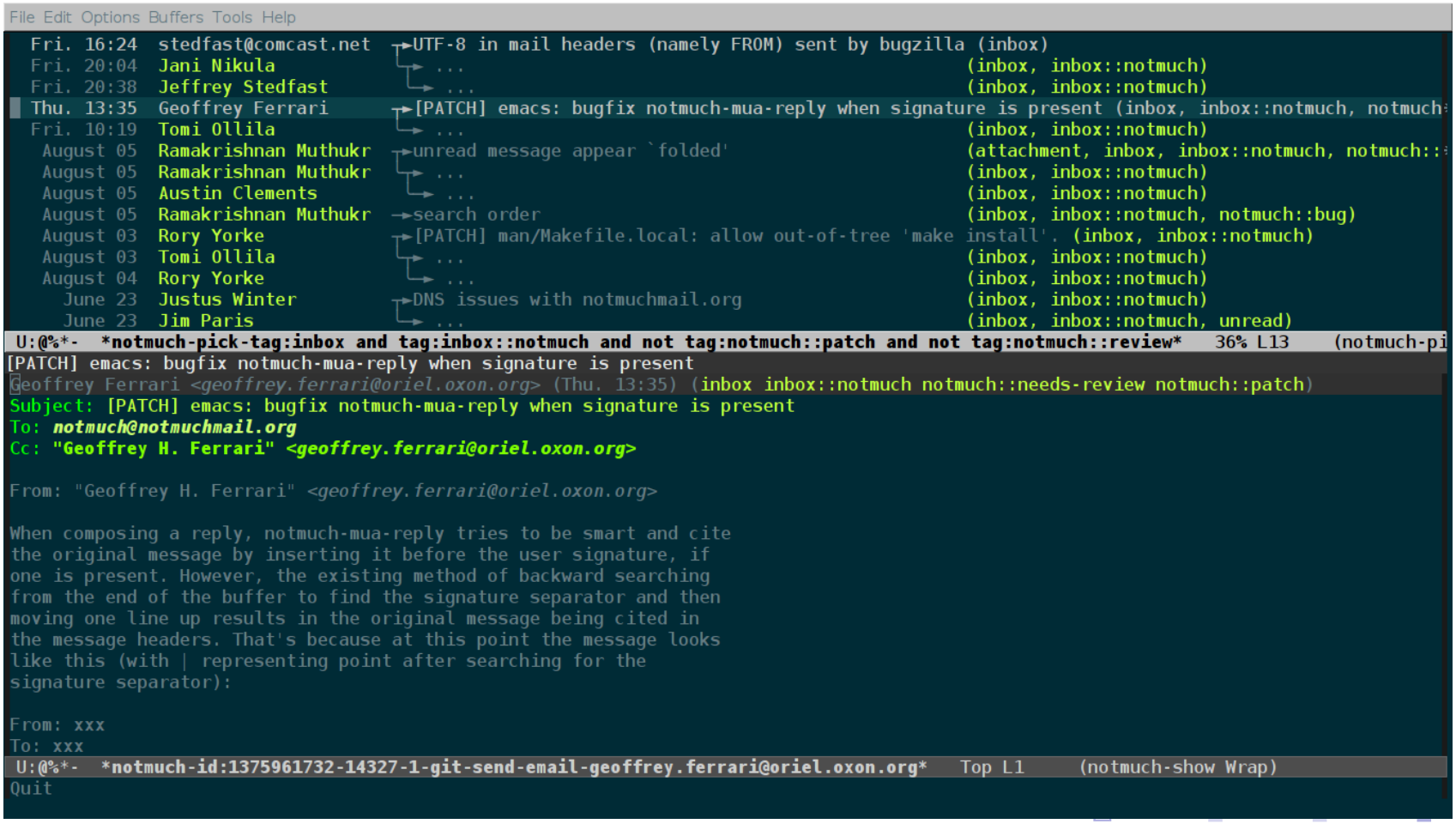
date:<since>..<until>
```

```
% notmuch search tag:inbox::notmuch and to:david
% notmuch search --output=files tag:deleted | xargs rm
```

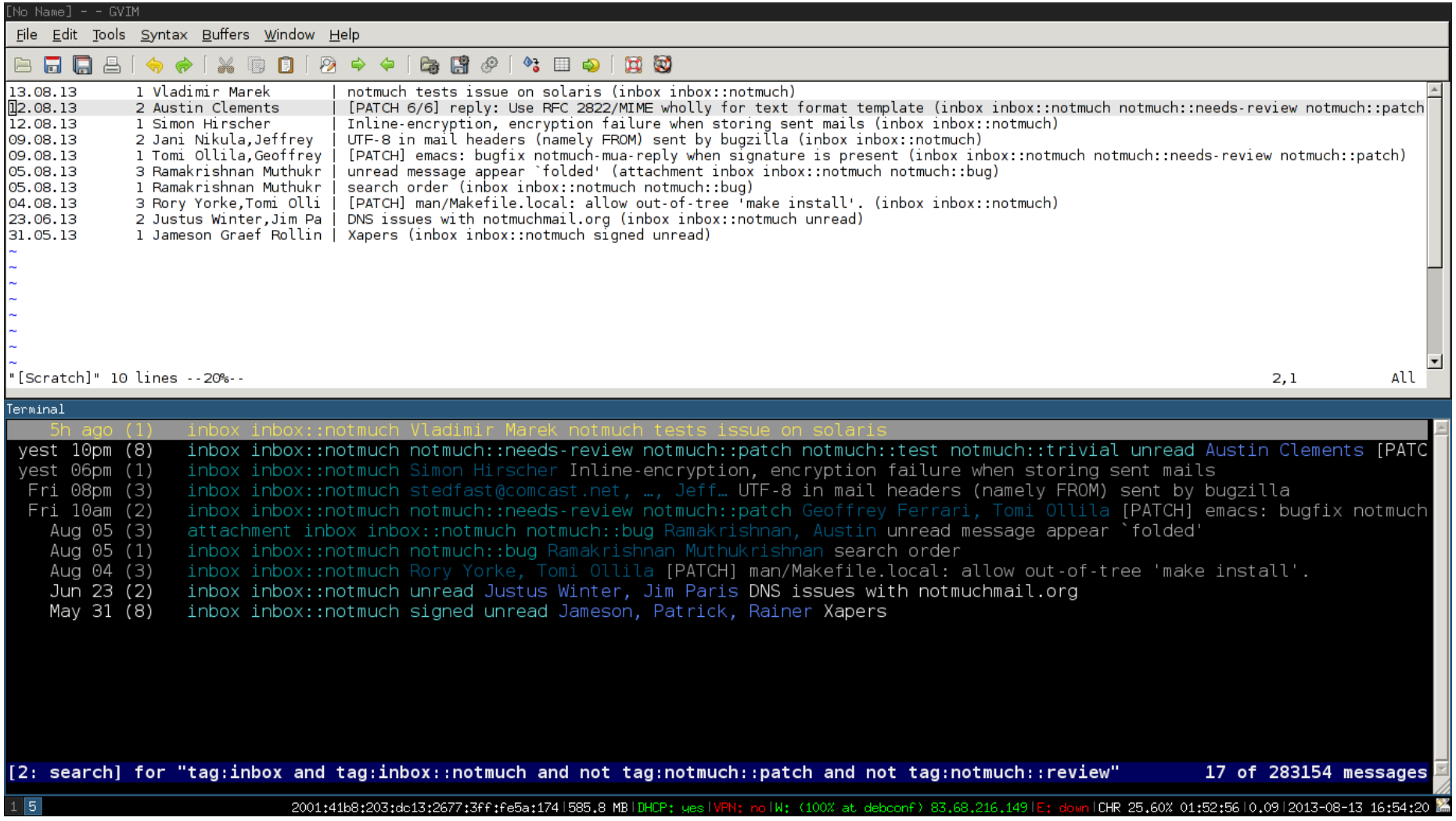
Emacs Based MUA

- Talks to the CLI via sexp output
- Thread based UI
- Uses message mode to send mail
- Support for MIME and OpenPGP



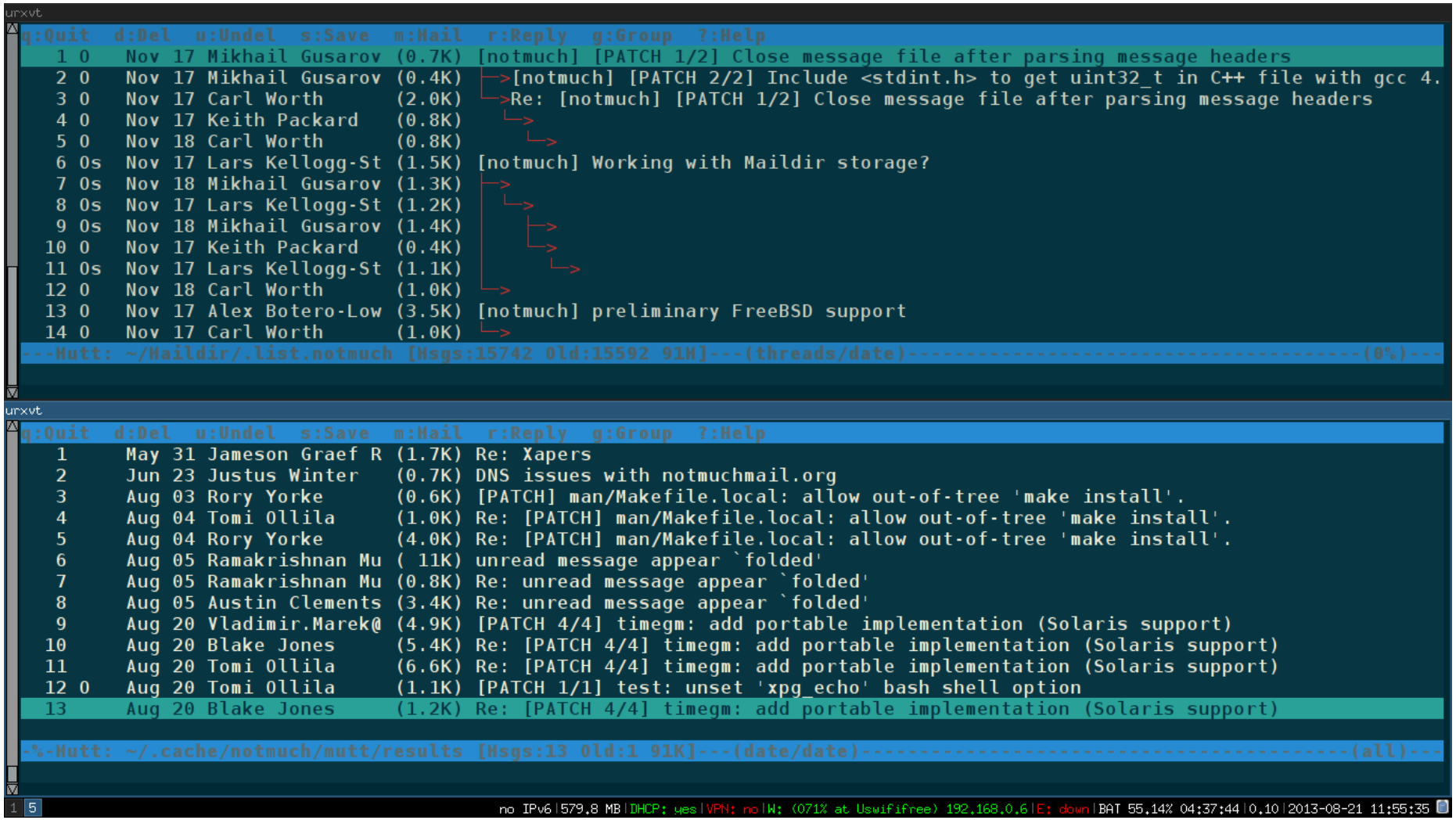
Options for Emacs haters

- alot (python, curses)
- notmuch-vim (vim, ruby)



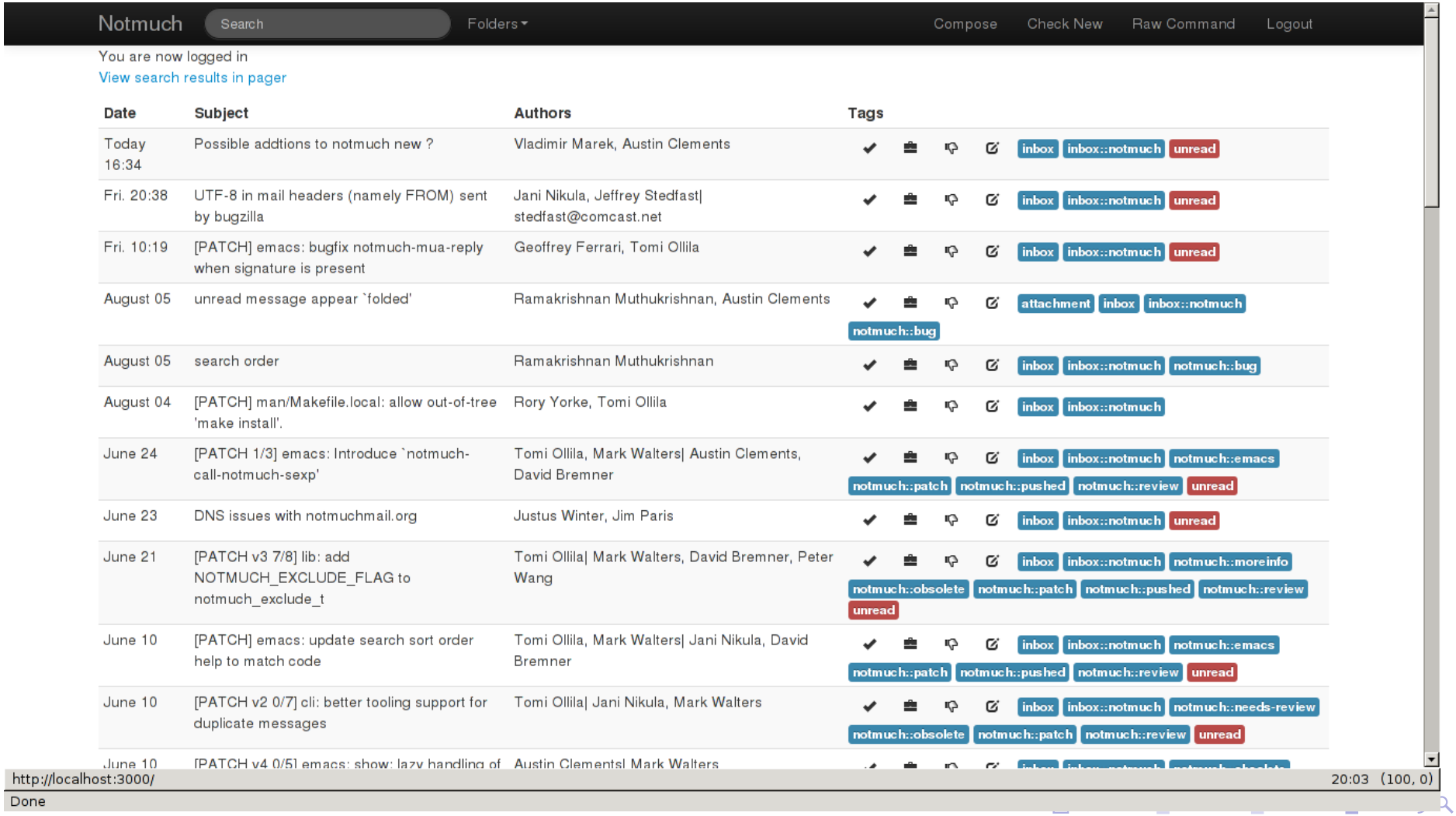
notmuch-mutt

- “exports” notmuch searches to symlink farms
- comes with configuration snippet to integrate with mutt



Web client

- Written in Haskell
  `http://hackage.haskell.org/package/notmuch-web`
- Communicates with the CLI via JSON output



Hack scripts

Perl/CLI

```
my $notmuch = spawn ({}, '|-',
                    qw/notmuch tag --batch/);
foreach my $pair (@{$status->{added}}) {
    print $notmuch
        pair_to_batch_line ($A_action, $pair);
}
```

Python

```
notmuch = notmuch.Database(
      mode=notmuch.Database.MODE.READ_WRITE)
q = notmuch.Query(db, query_string)
q.set_sort(notmuch.Query.SORT.OLDEST_FIRST)
for m in q.search_messages():
    thread_id = m.get_thread_id()
```

Hack scripts

Python

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notmuch = notmuch.Database(
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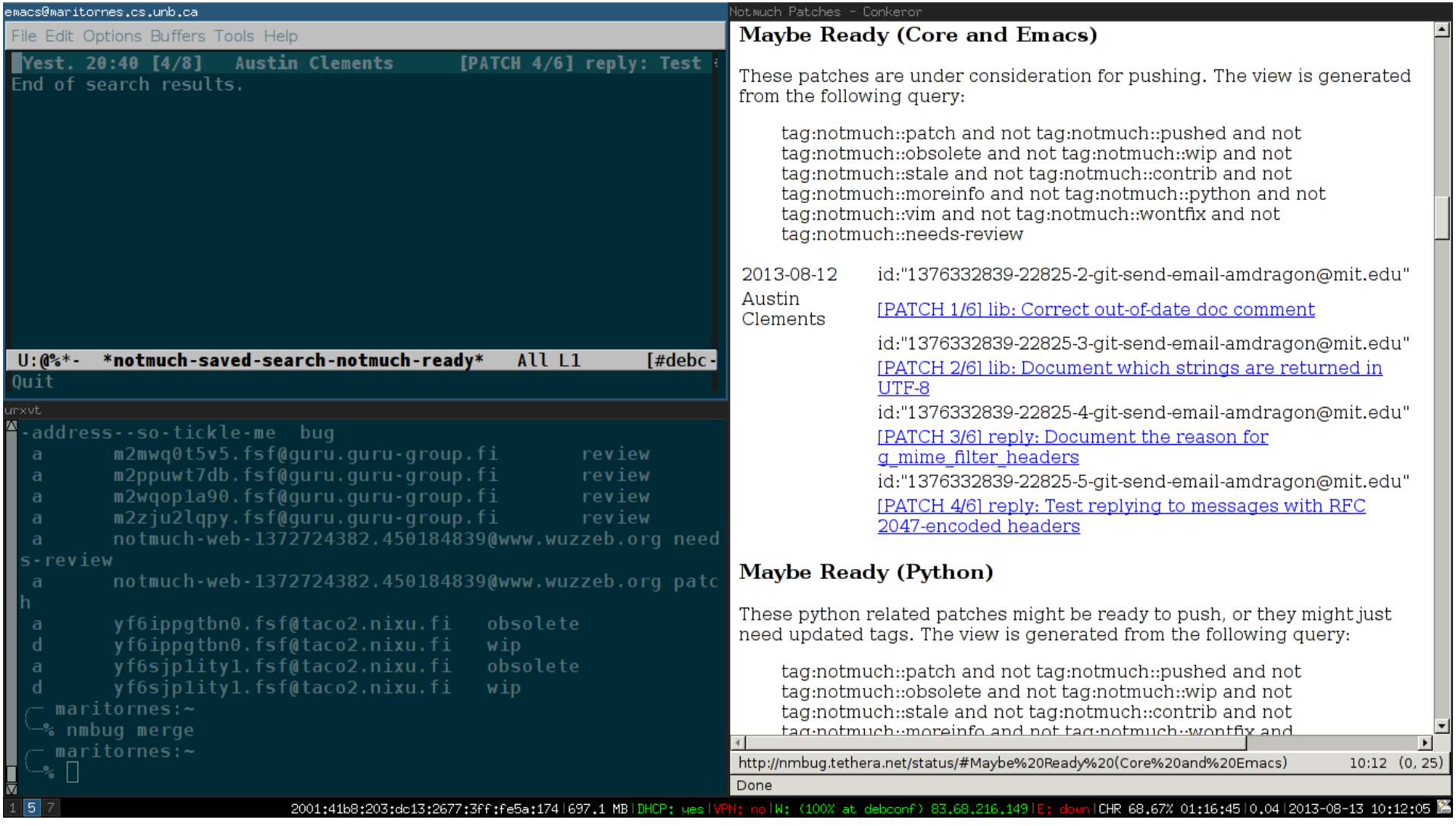
```

Ruby

```
do_read do |db|
        q = db.query(get_cur_view)
        q.sort = 0
        msgs = q.search_messages
        msgs.each do |msg|
                m = Mail.read(msg.filename)
                part = m.find_first_text
```

Not much of a bug tracker



notmuch more info?

source/wiki	`http://notmuchmail.org`
mailing list	`notmuch@notmuchmail.org`
irc	`irc://chat.freenode.net/#notmuch`