IMAP4 Response Code for Command Progress Notifications

- IMAP search on very large folders and copy/move
- Users can be confused by lack of responses
- Clients often timeout if the server is silent for too long
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- No formal way for clients to infer the server progress and communicate it to the user
- Proposal: a new Response Code to convey progress updates
IMAP4 Response Code for

Command Progress Notifications

\[\text{INPROGRESS ("<CMDTAG>" <DONE> <GOAL>)}\]\n
- CMDTAG: cmd-tag of the command sending updates
- DONE: the number of items (messages) processed so far
- GOAL: the total amount of items
IMAP4 Response Code for

Command Progress Notifications

Providing the raw count/goal enables the client to:

- Present the progress as percentage
- Consolidate progresses along multiple commands executing in parallel
- Project an ETA, or a rate of progress, based on the time the updates were received and the counts
IMAP4 Response Code for

Command Progress Notifications

Known Issues
• Cmd-tags containing ']' cannot be represented cleanly

Notes
• GOAL can be omitted if unknown, or expensive to compute beforehand
  In this client the client loses the ability to derive a completion ratio,
  but it can still infer progress rates.