Inbox pattern

Modern inbox patterns have evolved into a standardised complex interaction using a number of common patterns

Questions to answer

Accessibility
How accessible is a modern inbox design pattern?
Ryan Haney

Standardisation
Is the inbox pattern so standardised that making significant changes to make it more accessible decrease usability?
Ryan Haney

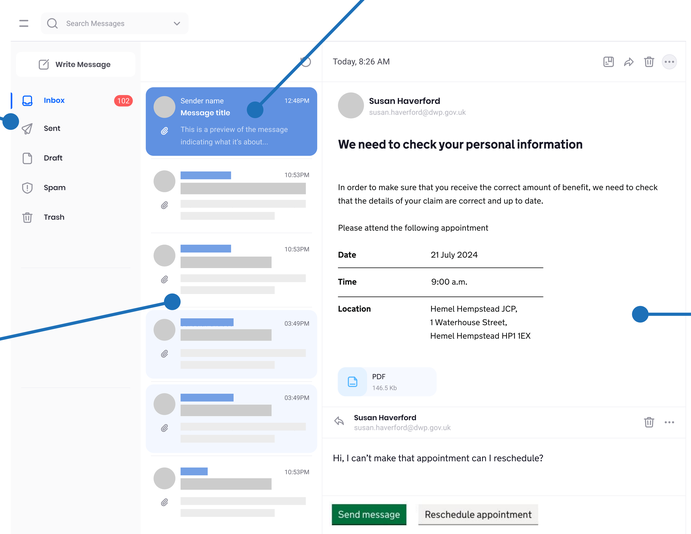
Desktop/Tablet

Message preview card

Message preview often contains key information such as the source and the beginning of the message body to allow context and scannability

Navigation

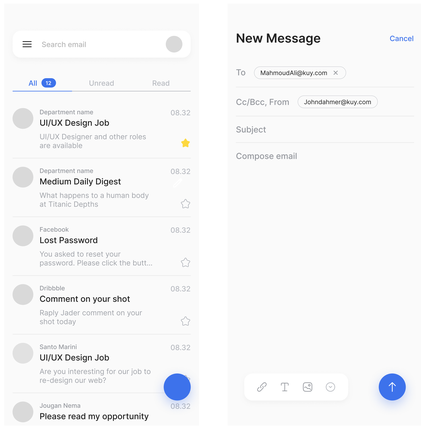
Common inbox functions focused on the management of messages



Message list

Scannable list of all messages. Common filtering and information density allows more control over scanning. It's unclear that high communication would be a need

Reading pane

The reading pane displays the body but also other meta data along with key actions to reply or manage the message

Mobile