"An email to the wrong Larry"

I still sometimes think of the miracle that is Undo Send in Gmail.

[Michael Leggett announcing it in 2009](#):

> This feature can't pull back an email that's already gone; it just holds your message for five seconds so you have a chance to hit the panic button. And don't worry – if you close Gmail or your browser crashes in those few seconds, we'll still send your message.

There's so much cleverness hiding in here: recognizing that this particular flavour of [l'esprit de l'escalier](#) exists, shifting time from the past to the near future, the repurposing of the undo branding, the fallback if things go wrong.

There was, I imagine, even the challenge of having to forget about the *previous* version of this feature elsewhere, which were the awful emails with RECALL: in the title, which I think maybe only worked in Outlookk, if at all? (Everyone else suffered like green bubble people do today.) I don't know. Sometimes the biggest hurdle to a great idea is blocking bad execution you already know from your head. On the other hand, sometimes someone else's bad execution can be motivating.

I even think that *not* using ⌘Z for this was a clever idea. ⌘Z without text editing context/focus can be really tricky. Do you remember when Safari had ⌘Z to bring back last closed tab before they came to their senses and used ⌘⇧T like Chrome?

It *is* sometimes harrowing when you want to click it Undo Send and just miss it – keyboard is more precise here – but not sure ⌘Z would register here. Even Esc would be tricky.

I miss when Gmail was in the "young and open to trying new things" phase.

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