

Email-Reactor fail-closed fix — classifier failure / partner mail no longer auto-archived (MC #103815)

Incident / Root Cause

`~/system/daemons/email-agent.js` was **FAIL-OPEN**. When Ollama classification failed (request timeout, JSON parse error, or no-JSON-match), `ollamaClassify` resolved to `{category: 'INFO', priority: 'low'}`. The auto-archive block then archived any info/spam/own row. The strategic-partner elevation block only ran when `dbCategory === 'ACTION'`, so a misclassified partner email was never elevated.

Net effect: A revenue email from strategic partner **Asmir Merdžanović** ("QODY" project, email #9661, 2026-06-13) was silently auto-archived and never answered until he re-sent it 2026-06-17.

Fix (FAIL-CLOSED) — 3 Changes

1. **All three** `ollamaClassify` **failure branches** now resolve `{category: 'ACTION', priority: 'medium', _classifyFailed: true}` with distinct reason (timeout/parse_error/no_json) — an unclassifiable email defaults to actionable, never FYI/archive.
2. `matchStrategicPartner()` **now runs independent of category** (guard `if (!ARGS.dryRun)`); on a partner match it elevates to ACTION via `emailInbox.updateClassification(..., 'ACTION', 'high')`, sets `partner_tier`, fires CEO push.
3. **Auto-archive is guarded** by `_skipArchiveDueToClassifyFail` and partner-elevated rows (cat patched to 'action') never reach the archive branch.

New helper: `updateClassification(id, classification, priority)` added + exported in `~/system/tools/email-inbox.js`.

Verification

- `node --check` clean on both files
- Simulation harness `/tmp/evidence-103815/sim.test.js` = **39 PASS / 0 FAIL** incl. the exact Asmir/QODY regression
- Independent verification: **native verifier (7/7 atomic claims) + Proveo P2P PASS** (mesh-thr-95c7fb0b / mesh-msg-008f947c)

Deployment

Daemon `com.john.email-agent` is `StartInterval` (spawns fresh node each cycle) → fix is **live on the next cycle**, no restart needed.

Residual Known Gap (Follow-on MC #103819)

Two heuristic INFO fallbacks **OUTSIDE** `ollamaClassify` (circuit-breaker path ~L2161 and promise-rejection catch ~L2177) do not yet carry `_classifyFailed`; narrow exposure (non-partner email during Ollama TCP error / breaker-open with no heuristic keyword match).

Lesson

Email triage must FAIL-CLOSED — an email the classifier could not process must never be silently archived; strategic-partner safety net must be category-independent.

Evidence bundle: `/tmp/evidence-103815/`

MC task: #103815

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