

Using RSS Feeds On the Web



What are RSS Feeds?

RSS stands for *Really Simple Syndication*. It's a file that most websites update with their newest blog posts, videos, deals and more, so you can "subscribe" to sites and have new content automatically pushed to you. Instead of checking the 40 websites you follow, you can just open an RSS reader app and see what's new on all of those sites together.

When might I be interested in using RSS Feeds?

Say you check a news site, a financial site and a sports website, RSS feeds are a great way to cull together the most recent information from a number of web sources to one location via a RSS reader.

How do I get RSS Content?

The first thing you need is an RSS reader. RSS reader apps let you subscribe to content from your favorite sites. Typically, they'll download images and text from articles so you can read them offline, and will list all of the stories in chronological order. Many RSS readers and apps then include tools to discover sites based on your favorite topics, and let you save favorite articles to reference later.






RSS Readers:

There's two main types of RSS readers: online RSS services, and native RSS apps.

Online RSS Services: These run automatically in the background, finding new articles as soon as they're published. You can read the articles online, or typically sync them with apps for your phone or computer—either made by the RSS service, or from third-party developers.


Native RSS apps: These sync RSS feeds directly on your device and often work with popular RSS services.

Like anything else on the web, your job is to find a feed reader that can integrate seamlessly into your life. The goal here is to save time, not waste it! Below are top rated RSS Readers:

App		Best for:	Price	Platform
Feedly		Building a personalized newsfeed	Free; \$5.41/mo.	Web, iOS, Android
Feedbin		Advanced search	\$3/mo.	Web
NewsBlur		Predictive article filtering	Free; \$2/mo.	Web, iOS, Android
Feed Wrangler		Advanced feed organization	\$1.60/mo.	Web, iOS
Inoreader		Long term content archiving	Free; \$1.25+/mo.	Web, iOS, Android, Windows Phone

How do I add RSS Content?

In order to add RSS content to your reader, you must first find a site that offers content in the form of a feed or blog. Many sites offer both a feed and an email service, and you need to decide which is right for you.

Look for the RSS icon to find a feed: . Many sites do not display this icon as frequently as a few years ago. Clicking this icon and selecting your chosen reader should add the content to the reader automatically, or, you will see instructions for pasting the URL for the feed into your reader.

Alternatively, within many readers you can search for topics, subjects or sources to see what feeds are available.

Now What?

Once you have your reader set up and you've subscribed to some feeds, you will probably want to start organizing your feeds into folders and organizing your information. Feed readers distinguish themselves by their ability to help you manage your subscriptions.

Sources:

<https://zapier.com/blog/best-rss-feed-reader-apps/>

<http://computer.howstuffworks.com/internet/basics/rss.htm>