






RSS Feeds Fact Sheet

“An RSS feed is a list of topics made available from a webpage via a standard XML file format known as RSS, an abbreviation of either Really Simple Syndication or Rich Site Summary (Wikipedia, 2006). RSS is a family of web feed formats used to publish frequently updated digital content, such as blogs, news feeds or pod casts (Wikipedia, 2007). The user subscribes to the Internet site content via the available RSS-feeds provided and copy that feed into a feed reader program. User may also subscribe using feed aggregators software. The subscription allows headings and announcements with appropriate links to be “pushed” from the subscribed publishing site whenever new material or content is added. This allows notification of new content of possible interest, fed with anonymity to subscribers, and reduces email clutter”.

RSS feeds are normally indicated by the following icons:

 Rss feed  Rss feed  Pod casting



There are three basic steps:

1. Search for the RSS Feed
2. Convert the URL to Java script
3. Create a file in clickUP using the Java script code.

References

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/RSS_\(file_format/\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/RSS_(file_format/))
<http://www.webreference.com/authoring/languages/xml/rss/intro/>

Different types of RSS Feeds

News feeds, e.g. <http://www.news24.com/> Scroll to bottom of site for .

Blog feeds, e.g. <http://www.fullcirc.com/> On the left you can subscribe to Nancy White's blog.

Step 1 How to search for feeds

- To start setting up RSS Feeds, look at the websites referenced in your Favourites in your Browser (if you have any) OR go to the website which you know contains an RSS Feed.
- Click on the RSS feed icon and COPY the feed URL (address of the RSS feed page).

Step 2 Convert the URL to Java script

- Go to the URL: <http://www.rss-to-javascript.com/p/138.html>
- Complete the online form.
- Click on the Generate JavaScript button at the bottom of the form. It will open a new window with a box with the JavaScript code inside.
- Copy the JavaScript from the URL that generated the script. Make sure to copy everything between the <script> and </script>. If a <noscript> tag was also created, include all the text between the <noscript> and </noscript> tags as well.



Other websites where you can convert a URL to Javascript:

- <http://itde.vccs.edu/rss2js/build.php>
- <http://www.bucks.edu/feed/build.php>

Step 3 Create a file in clickUP using the Java script

- Within the **File Manager**, go to the folder where you want to create the new file.
- Click on **Create file**.
- Enter the **Title** that will be displayed to the students.
- Paste the JavaScript (See step 2) in the input box.
- **NB:NB:** Tick in the HTML box below the input box.
- Add a File name for this file that you are creating.
- Click on the **Save** button.

Go to the tool from which you want to create a link to the RSS Feed.

- Click on **Add file**.
- Click on **Browse for Files**.
- Within the Class files, go to the folder where you created the RSS feed file. (There could be several of these files)
- Click on **OK**.

Open the RSS Feed in a new browser window (on Folders only)

In order for the students to view this page in a new window, do the following:

- Click on the Action Link of the newly created file.
- Select the **Customise Link** option.
- Click on the tick box in front of **Open in a new browser window**. This will display the RSS feeds in a new browser window.
- Click on the Save button.

Good teaching principle

As the RSS feed will require internet access you should indicate this to your students by providing a “Custom Description for the link.” This description could also inform them how the RSS feed will relate to the module activities.

Go to the Student View in order to test the RSS feed.

Benefits of using RSS Feeds

Keep your favourite websites safe. Should you receive a new computer or your computer software needs updates, you normally loose your Favourites saved in your Browser.