

# RSS & Atoms

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# What is RSS?



“RSS is a format for content distribution.”

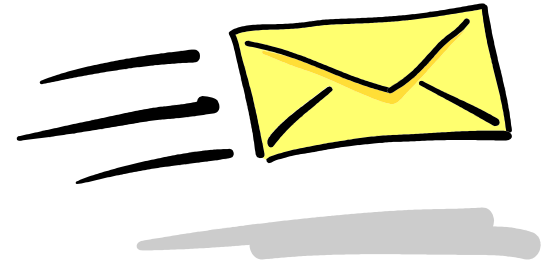
URL: <http://www.rss-specifications.com/creating-rss-feeds.htm>

“RSS [...] is a way for web sites to summarize their content, such as news articles, to make it available in a different view.”

URL: <http://www.mozilla.org/products/firefox/live-bookmarks>

- Selected content of the web page without HTML formatting
- Different interpretations of abbreviation RSS
  - Rich Site Summary (RSS 0.91)
  - RDF Site Summary (RSS 1.0)
  - Really Simple Syndication (RSS 2.0)
- RSS was developed by various organisations
  - Netscape
  - Fa. UserLand
  - ...

- Summary of the content (web sites, articles, etc.)
- Sharing headlines and information
  - Job Openings
  - Forum Headlines
  - etc.
- News, announcements
- Periodic updates
- Publications
- etc.



- RSS provides a news update from the website known as **feed** in a form of XML file.
- Feeds can be read via aggregator.
- Feed consist of summaries of web content together with links to full version of content, and other metadata.
- Users can subscribe to the websites that provides RSS feeds.

# How to subscribe to RSS feed



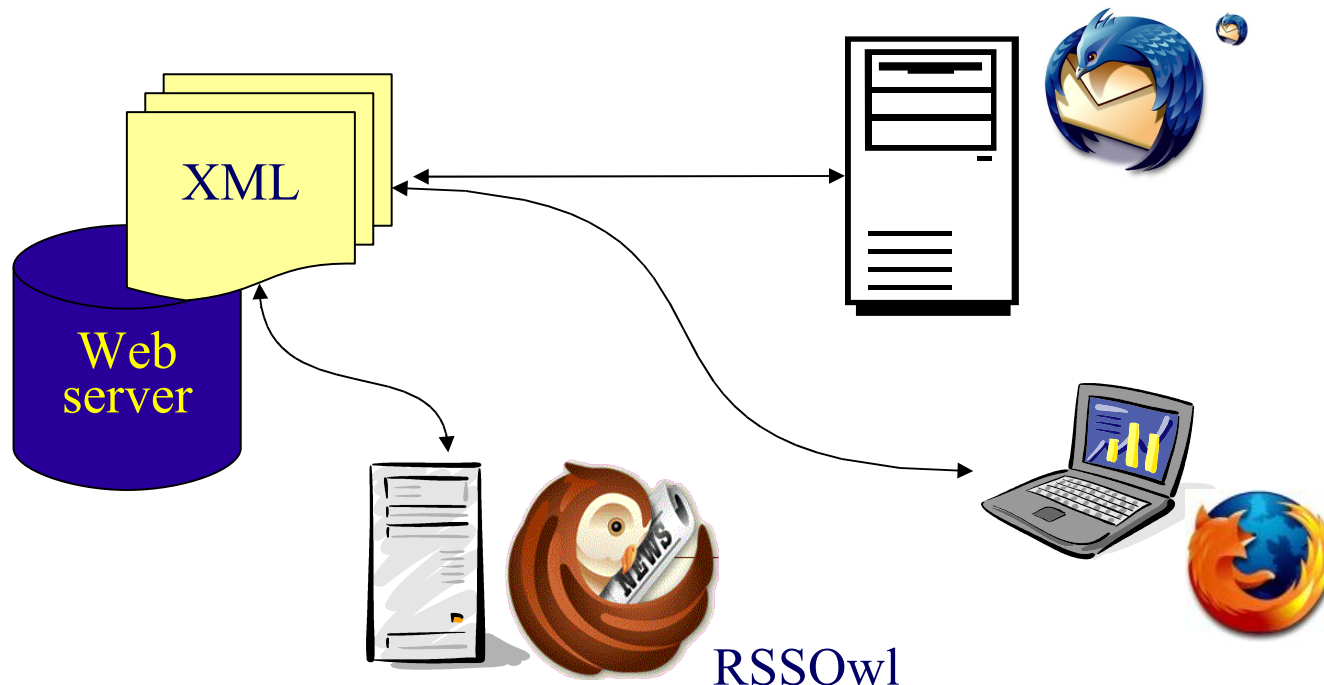
- Most of the websites provide a button for RSS feed subscription



- A program known as news/feed reader or aggregator checks RSS enabled pages and updates users with the feed they are subscribed to.
- Currently there are many news reader available, most of them free of cost.
- News reader could be a software (stand alone program) or an extension to existing program like web browser or may involve visiting a website.



- RSS uses XML and RDF Semantic Web technologies
- RSS is independent of layout
- RSS is a family of XML file formats for Web Syndication



# Example: Cashmere-int RSS-Feed



- Cashmere-int Newsletter
  - <http://www.iwi-iuk.org/cashmere/htdocs/html/newsletter/newsletter.en.shtml>
- Cashmere-int RSS feed:
  - [http://www.iwi-iuk.org:8081/htdocs/html/newsletter\\_rss.php?lang=en](http://www.iwi-iuk.org:8081/htdocs/html/newsletter_rss.php?lang=en)
- Support of Live Bookmarks for Mozilla Firefox 

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4	2005-05-06	<a href="#">RSS &amp; Atom News feed</a>	Shirish Anil Kucheria
5	2005-04-25	<a href="#">Knowledge Management in Digital Libraries. From XML to RDF.</a>	Roxana Grigoras

[Impressum](#)

RSS 0.92

W3C XHTML 1.0

Fertig Osnabrück, 2005-11-24



- RSS Version Summary
  - First version RSS 0.90 was developed by Netscape.
    - Based on XML format, overly complex for its goals
  - Another vendor called UserLand software developed simpler version known as 0.91
    - Continued to evolve 0.9x branch through 0.92,0.93,0.94 & 2.0
  - Another non-commercial vendor developed RSS 1.0 from original 0.9
    - Based on W3C's Resource Description Framework (RDF)
  - Latest version 2.x allows extensibility through modules living in their namespaces

- Recommendation for usage of RSS versions

RSS Version	Recommendation
0.90	Obsolete
0.91	Simple. Use for basic syndication. Provides easy migration path to 2.0 if you need more flexibility
0.92, 0.93, 0.94	Use 2.0 instead
1.0	Use for RDF based application or when you need advanced RDF specific modules
2.0, 2.0.1	Use for general purpose. Provides metadata rich syndication

<http://www.xml.com/pub/a/2002/12/18/dive-into-xml.html>

- Compatibility among RSS versions
  - Most of the RSS readers (aggregators) are able to understand various RSS versions
  - Most serious compatibility problem is with HTML markup
    - Userland's RSS reader forms the de-facto standard for other readers but it originally did not filtered out HTML markup from the feeds.
  - RSS 1.0 & 2.x allows lot of metadata to be encoded
  - Currently available news readers can read only limited metadata

- Atom
  - Developed to avoid the confusion and incompatibility of various RSS versions
  - Atom is XML based document format designed for syndication of Web content
  - Based on experience gained in using various RSS versions
  - Atom is working in progress within IETF
  - Latest version available is 0.3
  - At present used by Google related services such as 'Gmail' and 'Blogger'

- RSS readers can check RSS-enabled webpage on behalf of a user and display any updated article it finds.
- Most of RSS-readers are available free of cost
- Some of the RSS-reader can be found here

<http://www.mikezilla.com/exp0017.html>

<http://www.rssreader.com/>

<http://www.hebig.org/blogs/archives/main/000877.php>

