

RSS Reading Made Simple

RSS is a family of Web feed formats used to publish frequently updated works such as blog entries, news headlines, audio, and video in a standardized format. An RSS document, which is called a feed or a channel, includes full or summarized text plus metadata such as publishing dates and authorship. Web feeds benefit publishers by letting them syndicate content quickly and automatically. They benefit readers who want to subscribe to timely updates from favoured websites or to aggregate feeds from many sites into one place. RSS feeds can be read using software called an "RSS reader", which can be web-based or desktop-based. The user subscribes to a feed by entering the feed's link into the reader or by clicking an RSS icon in a browser that initiates the subscription process. The RSS reader checks the user's subscribed feeds regularly for new work, downloads any updates that it finds, and provides a user interface to monitor and read the feeds.

To start using RSS, we need to download the necessary software. A copy of RssReader has been made available at <http://www.lpfsystems.com/downloads/rssreader.exe>. This software also requires Microsoft's .NET Framework 1.1. This is available at <http://www.lpfsystems.com/downloads/dotnet11.exe>, if you do not have it installed at present.

Install RssReader by running the rssreader.exe file which you have just downloaded. Step through the installation screens, editing the default install directory if need be. Once the installation completes, click finish.

You can now run RssReader, by double-clicking the icon on your desktop.

Adding feeds is simple. Look for the ,  or  RSS feed pictograms in news pages of websites, for example <http://www.agribusiness.co.za>.

Place the mouse arrow on one of the above pictograms (in the website you found) and click the right mouse button, then choose "Copy Shortcut". Start RssReader and go to add (+) channel/feed and then paste (click right mouse button) the URL and press ok.