



Lesson #16

RSS Feeds

What are RSS Feeds?



- 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 channel) includes full or summarized text, plus metadata such as publishing dates and authorship.
- RSS feeds benefit publishers by letting them syndicate content automatically.

What are RSS Feeds?



- RSS feeds can be read using software called an RSS reader or aggregator, which can be web-based or desktop-based. A standardized XML file format allows the information to be published once and viewed by many different programs.
- The user subscribes to a feed by entering the feed's URI 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.

Usage of RSS Feeds



- Everyday more and more websites, news services and blogs are adding RSS content. RSS is a method of syndicating content.
- RSS feed creators provide content without forcing it on consumers.
- RSS feeds contain what are referred to as "items". The items are usually connected in some way and contain a common theme or other similarity.
- Making RSS feeds is extremely easy.

Making an RSS Feed



- First, you create an item:

```
<item>
```

```
<title>Final Exam</title>
```

```
<description>The CPS530 final exam will consist of  
multiple choice questions and simple programs to  
write.</description>
```

```
<link>http://www.courseweb.ca/cps530</link>
```

```
</item>
```

Making an RSS Feed



- Of course most of the time, you have multiple items:

```
<item>
```

```
<title>Final Exam</title>
```

```
<description>The CPS530 final exam will consist of multiple choice questions and simple programs to write.</description>
```

```
<link>http://www.courseweb.ca/cps530</link>
```

```
</item>
```

```
<item>
```

```
<title>Lesson on RSS</title>
```

```
<description>Lesson #16 has for topic RSS feeds.</description>
```

```
<link>http://www.courseweb.ca/cps530</link>
```

```
</item>
```

Making an RSS Feed



- The next step is to place all your items in a channel:

```
<channel><title>Dr. Hamelin's Channel</title>
```

```
<description>Welcome to my RSS Feeds</description>
```

```
<link>http://www.cs.ryerson.ca/dhamelin</link>
```

```
<item>
```

```
<title>Final Exam</title>
```

```
<description>The CPS530 final exam will consist of multiple choice questions and simple programs to write.</description>
```

```
<link>http://www.courseweb.ca/cps530</link>
```

```
</item>
```

```
<item>
```

```
<title>Lesson #16</title>
```

```
<description>A lesson on RSS feeds.</description>
```

```
<link>http://www.courseweb.ca/cps530</link>
```

```
</item></channel>
```

Making an RSS Feed



- Finally you will need to designate the file by indicating it is an XML file by inserting xml and rss defining tags at the beginning and `</rss>` at the very end.

```
<?xml version="1.0"?>
<rss version="2.0">
<channel><title>Dr. Hamelin's Channel</title>
<description>Welcome to my RSS Feeds</description>
<link>http://www.cs.ryerson.ca/dhamelin</link>
<item>
  <title>Final Exam</title>
  <description>The CPS530 final exam will consist of multiple choice
questions and simple programs to write.</description>
  <link>http://www.courseweb.ca/cps530</link></item>
<item>
  <title>Lesson #16</title>
  <description>A lesson on RSS feeds.</description>
  <link>http://www.courseweb.ca/cps530</link>
</item>
</channel>
</rss>
```

Viewing the RSS Feed



- Just save your feed with a .xml extension and upload it to your server. Appearance can vary depending on the aggregator. Validate your feed at feedvalidator.org. See course website for link to RSS 2.0 specification.

Dr. Hamelin's Channel

You are viewing a feed that contains frequently updated content. When you subscribe to a feed, it is added to the Common Feed List. Updated information from the feed is automatically downloaded to your computer and can be viewed in Internet Explorer and other programs. [Learn more about feeds.](#)

- + Add this feed to iGoogle
- + Subscribe to this feed in Google Reader
- + Subscribe to this feed

Displaying 2 / 2

- All 2

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- Title

Final Exam

→

The CPS530 final exam will consist of multiple choice questions and simple programs to write.

Lesson #16

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A lesson on RSS feeds.



End of lesson