

## RSS Feeds

### What is RSS?

RSS is an acronym for Rich Site Summary or Really Simple Syndication, depending on who you ask. Which ever acronym you choose, however, the definition remains the same: RSS is a format for delivering regularly changing content from one or more websites. News websites, blogs, and many other Internet publishers distribute their content as an RSS Feed to whoever wants it.

### Why use RSS?

RSS is very useful for those who regularly check their favorite websites for updates, whether those sites contain news, financial information, or personal interests. It allows you to stay easily informed without having to visit each website several times for updated information. RSS retrieves published updates for you in one central location, your RSS Reader. Also, privacy is ensured because subscribing for an RSS feed doesn't require signing up on a website as most newsletters require. Every day, more websites are offering RSS Feeds. Some of the more prominent ones today are [www.cnn.com](http://www.cnn.com), [www.msnbc.com](http://www.msnbc.com), and [www.nyse.com](http://www.nyse.com).

### What do I need to get RSS Feeds?

In order to receive and read RSS Feeds, an RSS Feed Reader is required. There are several programs available today that are designed specifically for this purpose, but some applications most likely already installed on your computer today contain RSS Feed Readers. For instance, Internet Explorer 7 and Microsoft Outlook 2003 or newer versions have the ability to receive RSS Feeds. If you have or are planning on upgrading to the Microsoft Vista operating system, there is a Gadget on the new Sidebar that is designed to receive and display RSS Feeds on your desktop at all times.

Once you've decided which RSS Feed Reader to use and have installed it, if necessary, the only thing left to do is find sites that offer RSS Feeds and add them to your list in the RSS Feed Reader. Most websites display a small icon with the acronyms RSS, XML, or RDF to let you know a feed is available. Just click on the website's RSS Feed icon and follow the instructions for adding it to your list.

---

### **Where to do I find more information on RSS?**

There is an enormous amount of information available on RSS on the Internet, including how to create your own RSS Feeds on your website. Here are a few good places to start if you are interested in knowing more about RSS:

<http://www.microsoft.com/atwork/manageinfo/rss.msp>

[http://www.usa.gov/Topics/Reference\\_Shelf/Libraries/RSS\\_Library/What\\_Is\\_RSS.shtml](http://www.usa.gov/Topics/Reference_Shelf/Libraries/RSS_Library/What_Is_RSS.shtml)

<http://www.rss-specifications.com/what-is-rss.htm>

### **About Desktop Resources, Inc.**

Desktop Resources, Inc. was founded in 1995 by Tony Schafer, and is a leader in helping organizations couple their business initiatives with the technology to address those needs. DRI's "InformIT" managed services offerings proactively manage client infrastructure and strive to prevent problems before they occur. For more details, contact DRI at (317) 596-3650 or <http://www.DesktopResources.com>