





A Really Simple Summary of RSS by Jeff Beck March 2007

- What Is RSS?** RSS stands for "Really Simple Syndication"--a simple way to access web feeds. Web feeds are one way for content providers to deliver frequently updated content such as news stories or blogs. By syndicating a web feed, content providers allow you to subscribe to content as they update it.
- Benefits of RSS?** RSS feeds have several advantages over email subscription services: 1) You do not need to unsubscribe to stop receiving new content. You just remove the feed from your reader. 2) Content sent to you is not dumped in a pile in your email box but organized by your RSS reader. This may prevent spamming or phishing as well.
- How to access?** To read the RSS feeds to which you have subscribed, you will need an RSS reader. The reader automatically checks for new content and displays it for you. The latest web browsers (such as **Microsoft Windows 7.0**, **Mozilla Firefox 2.0**, and **Safari**) come with a built in reader. Other options include **Bloglines**, **GoogleReader**, and **RSS Reader**.
- RSS Feeds** Web sites with RSS feeds often use symbols like  or  or  or  to indicate content is available for subscription.

A Variety of Examples

- ACS [Table of contents services](#)
- Chronicle Higher Ed. [Latest news feed](#) [Wired Campus news feed](#)
- Epicurious [Recipes from Bon Appetit & Gourmet magazines](#)
- New York Times [Links to feeds](#) [Editorials](#) [Most emailed articles](#)
- National Public Radio [Links to feeds & suggested readers](#) [Morning Edition](#)
- Oxford English Dictionary [Word of the day](#)
- Project Muse [Links to feeds of latest issues](#) [Victorian Studies](#)
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