

RSS

What???

RSS- Really Simple Syndication OR Rich Site Summary

An application that allows users to "subscribe" to updates from certain websites. Instead of visiting sites regularly to check for new content, you can have the updates sent to you automatically as they appear on the site.

Why???

This application makes it easy to keep up to date in myriad arenas. Instead of visiting your favorite (or at least important) sites on a regular basis to check for changes, you can set up feeds to go to one place, where you can quickly scan for news and read only what looks really interesting or necessary. While some of these things can be sent to your email, many people hate to have this kind of clutter in their email Inboxes. What kinds of things can you monitor?

- ❖ Professional sites
- ❖ Stock quotes
- ❖ Journal table of contents
- ❖ News sites
- ❖ Blogs (what?—short for Web Logs--online journal (as in diary) sites. You've most likely seen one. Ever looked at **Caring Bridge**? Heard of **MySpace**, **Xanga** or **FaceBook**? Your kids or students most likely use one of these.)
- ❖ Package tracking
- ❖ Internet searches
- ❖ eBay updates
- ❖ Schedules or calendars
- ❖ Podcasts (what?— iPod + broadcasting--audiofiles)

How???

- ❖ Find a feed reader, AKA aggregator. Some are desktop apps, others web-based. I use Bloglines <http://www.bloglines.com>.
- ❖ Create an account
- ❖ Look for buttons like these on a website you'd like to track: **XML** **RSS** Or sometimes, there'll be a link simply labeled "RSS." Look toward the bottom of a page. Some feed readers also give you a "subscribe" button to download that you can click on to find out if a site has feed and, if so, add it.
- ❖ Click on the RSS button or link. Copy the URL that appears in the address window of the browser page that opens and paste it into your reader.