

AideRSS

Introduction

What is AideRSS? This is an online tool or service that allows you to identify the most popular posts or items in a RSS feed.

What is a RSS feed? Well, that is an interesting question. RSS is an acronym for Really Simple Syndication. This is a web based system or format that allows information from a web site to be subscribed by other persons. It allows the data from that web site to be automatically ‘pumped’ out to subscribers of that web site. The data is referred to as a feed or a channel. The term ‘feed’ has been borrowed from the term ‘news-feed’ or ‘live-feed’ in the television industry.



RSS feeds come from a large number of different sources

RSS feeds can be sourced from a number of different web sites including:

- **News and information sources:** The Times, Washington Post, Sydney Morning Herald.
- **Media outlets:** ABC-TV, Radio stations, iTunes Store
- **Social networking tools:** Twitter, Diigo, Flickr, del.icio.us
- **Blogs:** personal, educational and commercial blogs
- **Feed filters:** Yahoo Pipes, AideRSS, Dapper

Some of the commercial providers of RSS feeds publish dozens of posts each day. It is impossible to keep up with the flood of information that is being pushed out of these services each day.



This is where AideRSS comes in handy. It allows you to *select* and *filter* feeds so that you receive the most popular or top posts from a particular service.

Signing up with AideRSS

Open a web browser and type the following web address or URL into the browser's address bar:

<http://www.aiderss.com/>

The following web page will appear.



In order to join or log in to AideRSS click on the My Feeds button located on the right hand side of the web page. You will be taken to a web page that will give you three choices:

1. Sign in to AideRSS with your email address and password
2. Sign in using your OpedID account
3. Register a new account with AideRSS

Take the time to now open a new AideRSS account and follow the instructions.

The screenshot shows the "Register" form on the AideRSS website. It has a green header. The form contains three input fields: "E-mail address", "Password", and "Password verification". Below the fields is a checkbox with the text "I have read and agree to the AideRSS Terms of Service and Privacy Policy." and a "Sign up" button.The screenshot shows the "Login" form on the AideRSS website. It has a blue header. The form contains two input fields: "E-mail address" with the value "john@larkin.net.au" and "Password" with masked characters. Below the fields are "Log in" and "Forgot your password?" buttons.

The Dashboard

Once you have successfully signed in or logged in to AideRSS you will reach your Dashboard.



You can navigate to different parts of your AideRSS account including:

- The Dashboard
- Top stories
- My feeds
- Settings
- Help
- Logout

Top Stories

The **Top Stories** lists the most popular stories or blog posts from the RSS feeds that you have supplied to AideRSS to analyse. More on that later.

You can add as many RSS feeds as you wish to AideRSS. Type the RSS feed address of a web site in the field above your Dashboard and then click on the button, **Analyze**.

In the example below the web address for the TechCrunch blog, <http://www.techcrunch.com/>, has been added to the field. One would then click on the **Analyze** button.



During a few moments AideRSS will analyse the blog posts or RSS feed of that site and list the most popular feeds. See the example below.

TechCrunch - TechCrunch profiles the companies, products and events that are defining and transforming the new web. TechCrunch is written by Michael Arrington.

328 posts per month • 4014 posts since Jun 27, 07 • Last update: 1 minute ago

ALL POSTS GOOD POSTS (89%) GREAT POSTS (41%) BEST POSTS (7%) TOP 20

Subscribe in feed reader Original feed - 4014 Posts (100%) Add all posts to My Feeds Save and monitor locally Sharing & Widgets Publish on your site Help Q & A

PostRank	Date	Headline	Top conversations
3.0	Jul 15, 08	Zvents Beefs Up Board With Former Yahoo Local Chief ...	more 10 1 0
2.6	Jul 15, 08	Muzu TV turns artists into ad-men	more 7 2 0
3.4	Jul 15, 08	Tap Tap Revenge For iPhone Launches Late, Surges Up ...	more 11 2 0
8.8	Jul 15, 08	How Many Silicon Valley Startup Executives Are Hoppe...	more 82 16 5
5.6	Jul 15, 08	Google/Viacom Agree To Preserve User Anonymity In Da...	more 26 7 5
2.2	Jul 15, 08	YouSendIt Closes Its \$14 Million Series C Round	more 9 2 0
5.9	Jul 15, 08	Google Bucket Testing New Digg-Like Search Interface	more 43 8 5

If you look closely at the results above you will see that the blog posts for TechCrunch have been subdivided into 5 categories:

- All Posts
- Good Posts
- Great Posts
- Best Posts
- Top 20

You can review each category. You also have the chance to subscribe to all but the Top 20 category.

For example, you could select the **Best Posts** tab and then subscribe to those posts in your favourite news feed aggregator or reader. You would need to click on the **Subscribe in feed link**. You could also add the result to your list of feeds in AideRSS. See below.

TechCrunch - TechCrunch profiles the companies, products and events that are defining and transforming the new web. TechCrunch is written by Michael Arrington.

328 posts per month • 4014 posts since Jun 27, 07 • Last update: 3 minutes ago

ALL POSTS GOOD POSTS (89%) GREAT POSTS (41%) BEST POSTS (7%) TOP 20

Subscribe in feed reader Best posts - 296 Posts (7%) Add best posts to My Feeds Save and monitor locally Sharing & Widgets Publish on your site Help Q & A

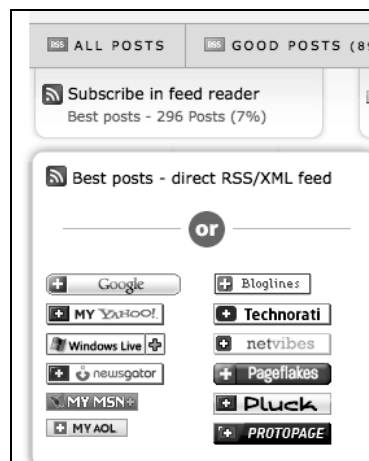
PostRank	Date	Headline	Top conversations
10.0	Jul 09, 08	TechCrunch50 Exhibitor Packages On Sale Now	more 240 0 0
9.5	Jul 08, 08	Google Launches Virtual World Called Lively	more 155 85 39
8.9	Jul 06, 08	Gmail's Mysterious Grey Box	more 1430 320 30
10.0	Jul 05, 08	Think Before You Voicemail	more 240 177 43
10.0	Jul 03, 08	How To Build A Web App in Four Days For \$10,000 (Say...	more 617 186 36
8.8	Jul 03, 08	Judge Protects YouTube's Source Code, Throws Users T...	more 198 47 46



Once you click on the **Subscribe in feed reader** link the following window will appear.

Click on the reader that applies to you. For example you may use Google Reader to view the RSS feeds that you like to read.

If you click on the **Google Reader** button the page illustrated below will appear.



Google™ Add to Google

TechCrunch - AiderSS (Best)
 TechCrunch profiles the companies, products and events that are defining and transforming the new web. TechCrunch is written by Michael Arrington.
<http://www.aiderSS.com/rss/best/techcrunch.com>

Google offers two different ways to keep up-to-date with your favorite sites:

Your Google homepage brings together Google functionality and content from across the web, on a single page.

Add to Google homepage

Sample

Google Reader makes it easy to keep up with the latest content from a large number of sites, all on a single reading list.

Add to Google Reader

Sample

or

Click on the button located on the right that states **Add to Google Reader**. The best feeds from TechCrunch as analysed by AiderSS will be added to Google Reader.

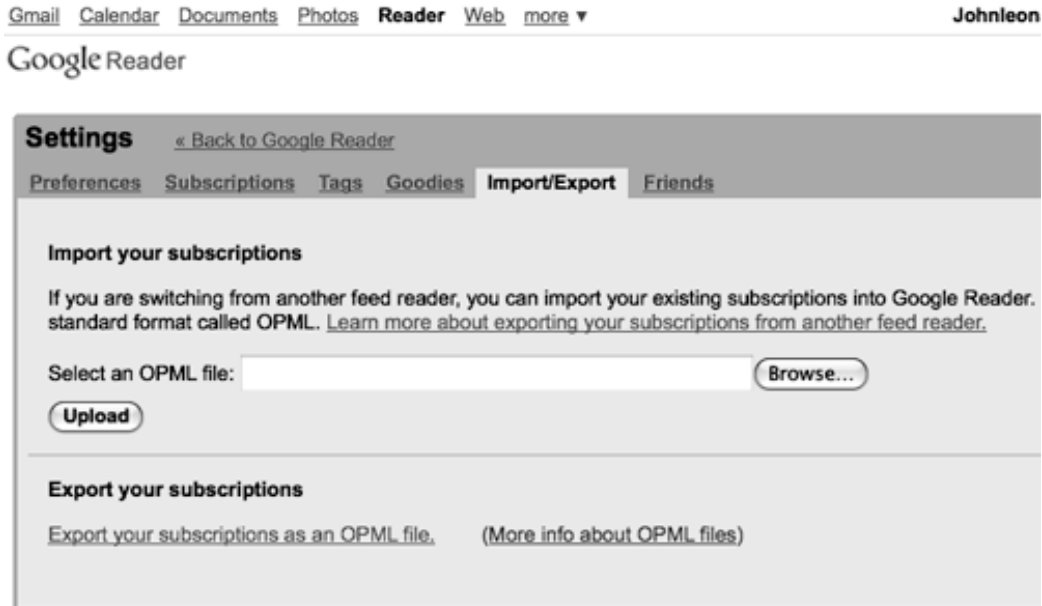
As a result only the best results from TechCrunch will appear in your reader. This will save you time. Illustrated below is the TechCrunch feed as filtered by AiderSS.



Import RSS feeds from other sources

You can also import all of your favourite RSS feeds into AiderRSS and analyse them all. Then you can subscribe to only the most popular or influential feeds.

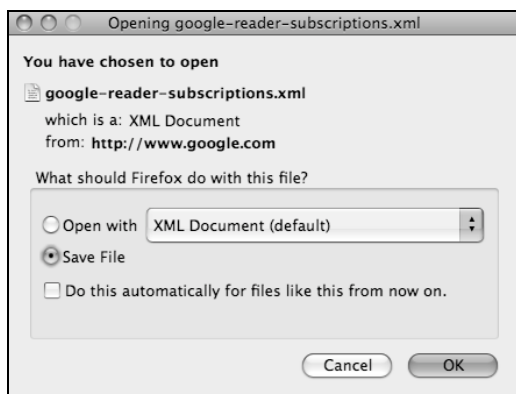
How can one achieve this? For example, click on the **Settings** link in **Google Reader** and then click on the **Import/Export** tab. The following window will appear in your browser.



All of the subscribed feeds in Google Reader can be saved as a file known as an **OPML file**. This file lists all of the RSS feeds that you like to read. This same file can then be imported into other RSS feed readers. As a result if you choose to try another tool or piece of software to read your favourite RSS feeds all you need to do is export your OPML file to your PC and then import the same file into your new RSS feed reader.

In this example will export the OPML file from Google Reader and then import it into AiderRSS.

Click on the **Export your subscriptions as an OPML file link**. A window may appear asking where would you like to save the file. Simply save it to your computer Desktop or Documents folder.



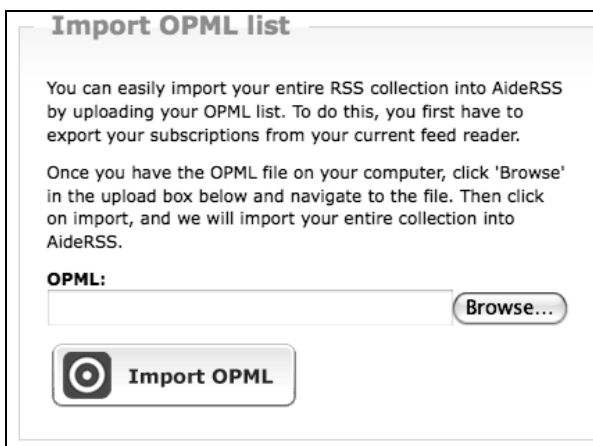
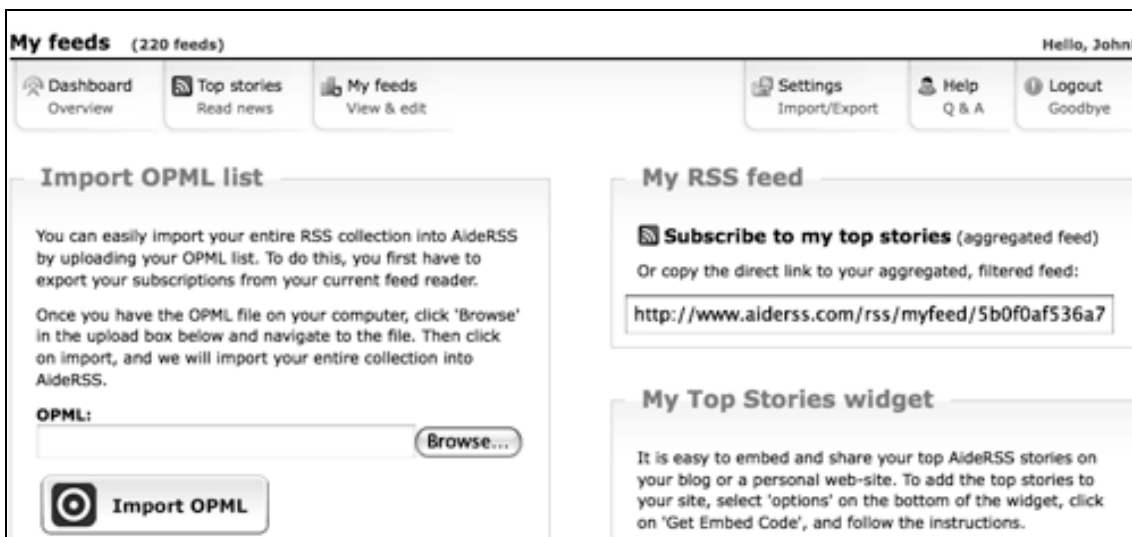
The OPML file is an XML document. It may look like this...



Browse back to the AideRSS web site and return to your Dashboard. Click on the **Settings** link located on the right hand side of the Dashboard.



A new page will appear with a number of options.



You will need to click on the Browse button to locate the OPML file that you saved to your computer just a few moments earlier.

Import OPML list

You can easily import your entire RSS collection into AideRSS by uploading your OPML list. To do this, you first have to export your subscriptions from your current feed reader.

Once you have the OPML file on your computer, click 'Browse' in the upload box below and navigate to the file. Then click on import, and we will import your entire collection into AideRSS.

OPML:

Once you have located the OPML file it will be listed in the field.

Click on the Import OPML button.

You will then be notified how many feeds have been added to AideRSS

✓ OPML Import: **137 feeds** feeds have been added, **21 feeds** are queued for import and will be added to your account shortly.

My feeds (220 feeds) Hello, John!

Dashboard Overview | Top stories Read news | My feeds View & edit | Settings Import/Export | Help Q & A | Logout Goodbye

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OPML:

My RSS feed

Subscribe to my top stories (aggregated feed)
 Or copy the direct link to your aggregated, filtered feed:

My Top Stories widget

It is easy to embed and share your top AideRSS stories on your blog or a personal web-site. To add the top stories to your site, select 'options' on the bottom of the widget, click on 'Get Embed Code', and follow the instructions.

If you click on the **My Feeds** button in the **Dashboard** area you will see a list of the most popular feeds that you read. This can provide you with feedback about the feeds. You can **filter** the feeds **individually** or **collectively**.

My feeds (238 feeds) Hello, John!

Dashboard Overview | Top stories Read news | My feeds View & edit | Settings Import/Export | Help Q & A | Logout Goodbye

BlogTrends	Title	Set all to: delete, all, good, great, best	Adjust filtering level ↕
	History and Education: Past and Present - (best)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	View site Best ↕
	A Difference - (best)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	View site Best ↕
	::HorsePigCow:: marketing uncommon - ...helping you find a cure for... (best)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	View site Best ↕
	Learning with the Fang - A really excellent Edublogs.org blog (best)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	View site Best ↕
	My Other Blog - A blog about the use of ICT in primary education. (best)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	View site Best ↕
	Teaching Generation Z - (best)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	View site Best ↕
	Lessons Learned - Designing Instruction, Content and Assessments fo... (best)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	View site Best ↕
	Artichoke - A "place" where I can wrestle with ideas, argue, challe... (best)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	View site Best ↕
	Teach42 - Education and Technology by Steve Dembo (best)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	View site Best ↕
	Lucaccept - intercepting the Web - A teacher learning about the web ... (best)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	View site Best ↕

Then click on the Dashboard button to see a list of the **Top Stories** that appear among all of the feeds that you read. You could subscribe to just that list in a feed reader such as Google Reader by clicking on the **Subscribe if feed reader link**.

The screenshot shows a web interface for 'My feeds' with 238 feeds. The 'Top Stories' section is titled 'Top stories from saved feeds (subscribe in feed reader)'. It contains a table with columns for PostRank, Date, and Headline. Each row also includes a 'more' link and a 'Top conversations' section with icons for comments, shares, and other interactions.

PostRank	Date	Headline	Top conversations
2.6	Jul 16, 08	Google Getting Close to 70% of U.S. Sea... (www.readriteweb.com)	more 2 2 0
3.0	Jul 16, 08	Can the iPhone hit crucial network dens... (www.zephoria.org)	more 4 3 0
5.3	Jul 16, 08	Delver Launches Social Search (www.readriteweb.com)	more 6 4 3
4.6	Jul 16, 08	Delver Launches Social Search (www.readriteweb.com)	more 6 2 1
5.4	Jul 16, 08	Confirmed: Twitter Has Acquired Summize (www.readriteweb.com)	more 6 3 2
5.2	Jul 16, 08	Confirmed: Twitter Has Acquired Summize (www.readriteweb.com)	more 6 3 2
5.6	Jul 16, 08	Desperation at SezWho? Partners with Iz... (www.readriteweb.com)	more 11 0 0
5.5	Jul 16, 08	Desperation at SezWho? Partners with Iz... (www.readriteweb.com)	more 12 0 0
5.0	Jul 15, 08	The Wall Street Journal Lesson (blog.guykawasaki.com)	more 7 1 0
2.2	Jul 15, 08	KickApps Brings Userplane's Chat to its... (www.readriteweb.com)	more 2 1 0

Occasionally AideRSS may not function at all and you will see the following alert. It may be wise to pause and come back later.

