

Adding News Feeds to your WebCT Vista course

Adding dynamic news feeds to your course is usually as easy as copying and pasting, and this tutorial will show you how.

1. You should have already obtained a URL link to a feed that you would like to add, but if you have not, please see the tutorial: Finding an RSS Feed.
2. Once you obtain the RSS feed URL, you will need to go to the ETC Javascript RSS Feed Builder and enter the URL. You will then choose your options (typically the default is perfect) and then you can Preview the Feed to see what it looks like, or click Generate Javascript.

Javascript RSS Feed Builder

The tool below will help you format a feed's display with the information you want to use on your web site. All you need to enter is the URL for the RSS source, and select the desired options below.

First, be sure to **preview** the feed to verify the content and format. Once the content is displayed how you like, just use the **generate javascript** button to get your code.

URL Enter the web address of the RSS Feed

Tutorial: Finding an RSS feed

Show channel? (yes/no/title) Display information about the publisher of the feed (yes=show the title and description; title= display title only, no=do not display anything) - If you don't know, just leave this alone.

yes title no

Number of items to display. Enter the number of items to be displayed (enter 0 to show all available)

Show/Hide item descriptions? How much? (0=no descriptions; 1=show full description text; n>1 = display first n characters of description; n=-1 do not link item title, just display item contents) - If you don't know, just leave this alone.

Show item posting date? (yes/no) Display the time and date for each item.

yes no

Target links in the new window? (n="no, links open the same page", y="yes, open links in a new window")

Preview Feed

Generate JavaScript

3. When you click on the Generate Javascript button you'll then see a text box that has a long list of code inside of it. Copy this text from the box.

4. Login to your WebCT Vista course that you'd like to add the feed into. Typically we'll create a separate page for each feed in your course, this keeps the course from getting too cluttered, and allows for greater organization. In Build mode, go to the organizer page or learning module you'd like to add the feed to.
5. Click on the Content File link and then Click on Create Content File. This will allow you to create a new content file, with a title and code.
6. Give the file/feed page a title, paste the Javascript into the content window, and check the Use HTML box. Click Save and your feed page is now done.

Create File

*Title:

HTML Creator: On / Off

*Content:

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    }</style>
<script language="JavaScript"
src="http://academics.georgiasouthern.edu/etc/feed2js/feed2js.php?
src=http%3A%2F%2Frss.slashdot.org%2Fslashdot%
2Fslashdot&chan=y&desc=1&targ=y" type="text/javascript"></script>

<noscript>
<a href="http://academics.georgiasouthern.edu/etc/feed2js/feed2js.php?
src=http%3A%2F%2Frss.slashdot.org%2Fslashdot%
2Fslashdot&chan=y&desc=1&targ=y&html=y">View RSS feed</a>
</noscript>
```

Use HTML | Insert equation:

File name: If no file name is entered, the title will be

Your file will be saved in File Manager in the Section Content folder.

|

* Required field

7. You can see that the feed page is created a link which you can click on to view the entire feed page. As the instructor, you will access this page to read news by using the Teach tab or Student View tab.