RSS 2.0 at Harvard Law

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RSS 2.0 Specification

Tuesday, July 15, 2003

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What is RSS?

RSS is a Web content syndication format.

Its name is an acronym for ***R**eally **S**imple **S**yndication.*

RSS is a dialect of XML. All RSS files must conform to the XML 1.0 **specification**, as published on the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) website.

A summary of **RSS version history**.

At the top level, a RSS document is a <rss> element, with a mandatory attribute called version, that specifies the version of RSS that the document conforms to. If it conforms to this specification, the version attribute must be 2.0.

Subordinate to the <rss> element is a single <channel> element, which contains information about the channel (metadata) and its contents.

Sample files

Here are sample files for: RSS **0.91**, **0.92** and **2.0**.

Note that the sample files may point to documents and services that no longer exist. The 0.91 sample was created when the 0.91 docs were written. Maintaining a trail of samples seems like a good idea.

About this document

This document represents the status of RSS as of the Fall of 2002, version 2.0.1.



It incorporates all changes and additions, starting with the basic spec for **RSS 0.91** (June 2000) and includes new features introduced in **RSS 0.92** (December 2000) and RSS 0.94 (August 2002).

Change notes are **here**.

First we document the required and optional sub-elements of <channel>; and then document the sub-elements of <item>. The final sections answer frequently asked questions, and provide a roadmap for future evolution, and guidelines for extending RSS.

Required channel elements

Here's a list of the required channel elements, each with a brief description, an example, and where available, a pointer to a more complete description.

Element	Description	Example
title	The name of the channel. It's how people refer to your service. If you have an HTML website that contains the same information as your RSS file, the title of your channel should be the same as the title of your website.	GoUpstate.com News Headlines
link	The URL to the HTML website	http://www.goupstate.com/