



News Feeds

Help Documentation

News Feeds

News Feeds Overview

Real Simple Syndication (RSS) is a way for website owners to make their content available for people to read at their leisure using a centralized application, or Feed Reader. Websites publish lists of updated content via "feeds" that indicate when a new article, blog post or community thread is available. So, rather than regularly visiting a website, you can add a new feed to SmarterMail (also called subscribing to a feed) and then see when new content is available from that site. Any new content posted to your feeds will appear in the News Feeds section of your SmarterMail account, so you don't have to do a ton of clicking around or have multiple browser tabs open.

Using RSS makes it easy to stay up-to-date on information from news sites, blogs, social media outlets, Google alerts, new forum topics and much more, right from within SmarterMail.

The screenshot shows the SmarterMail News Feeds interface. On the left, there is a sidebar with a list of feeds: All Feeds (112), Daring Fireball (48), Kottke (39), Slashdot (15), and The Verge (10). The main content area displays a feed from Daring Fireball, titled "Daring Fireball". The feed content includes:

- Last Updated 4/27/20 4:24 PM
- By John Gruber
- Jason Snell Reviews the 12.9-Inch iPad Magic Keyboard**
- 4/27/20 1:54 PM
- Jason Snell, writing at Six Colors: This is basically my iPad dream, fulfilled. But dreams are amorphous things, and they fall apart if you begin to interrogate them logically. The Magic Keyboard for iPad Pro isn't a dream, it's a real product, one that's sitting in my lap right now. It's one thing for Apple to decide that it's time to offer a full laptop experience on the iPad — and an altogether different thing to execute that vision. As I scrutinize the Magic Keyboard, it doesn't fall apart as if it were a dream — it holds together, solidly. This is a product that isn't for everyone, to be sure... but it's exactly what I've been looking for. I really enjoyed Snell's review, and found it comforting that we came to extremely similar conclusions despite coming from quite different starting points. We're both longtime — very longtime — Mac aficionados, but he's been on Team Do Work Using an iPad for years now.
- Source: Daring Fireball
- Dan Moren Reviews the Logitech Combo Touch iPad Keyboard Cover/Case**
- 4/27/20 12:43 PM
- Dan Moren, writing at Six Colors: The biggest argument in favor of the Combo Touch is that it was developed in concert with Apple. That means that, unlike other third-party keyboards with trackpads, there's a reasonable expectation that the pointer support will work pretty well — and it does! Logitech also has a history of making solid keyboards, and the Combo Touch delivers on that as well. Where it's less good is when you want to do other stuff with it. iPads other than the 2018 and 2020 iPad Pro just weren't designed hand-in-hand with a modular system of peripherals in mind. The dealbreaker for me with the Combo Touch is that you can't just connect/disconnect the iPad — you have to put the iPad in a case. I don't know how much of this is a design concession, and how much is a feature for education buyers, who for obvious reasons prefer their iPads in protective cases. If there's one addition
- Source: Daring Fireball
- Ben Sandofsky on the New iPhone SE's Monocular Depth Estimation**
- 4/27/20 12:22 PM
- Ben Sandofsky, writing at the Halide blog: "Doesn't the iPhone XR do that? It also only has a single camera!", you might say. As we covered previously, while the iPhone XR has a single camera, it still obtained depth information through hardware. Its sensor features focus pixels, which you can think of as tiny pairs of "eyes" designed to help with focus. The XR uses the very slight differences seen out of each eye to generate a very rough depth map. The new iPhone SE doesn't have focus pixels, or any other starting point for depth. It generates depth entirely through machine learning. It's easy to test this yourself: take a picture of another picture. The fact that the new SE apparently has the exact same sensor as the iPhone 8, but is noticeably more capable, exemplifies the potential of computational photography. Remember too, that everything Apple does for the SE can also be applied to iPhones (and

At the bottom of the interface, there is a status bar showing "21.7 MB (2%) Used".

Navigating Your News Feeds

News Feed Layout

When you view your news feeds, the page is divided into two sections:

- The News Feeds View displays all of the feeds you have added to SmarterMail. Any recent or unread updates to a specific feed are shown with a number to the end of the feed's name. To view the feeds, simply click the desired feed's name.
- The content view displays a list of the articles, with a brief synopsis, in the the RSS feed you are viewing. Simply click on the article to open it up in a new browser tab at the original source.

Adding a New News Feed

Adding a new feed is simple. However, you'll need to grab the proper feed URL from the site you want to add. Generally, a website will have a RSS feed listed somewhere on their website.

Additionally, you can do a search for "Website A's RSS feed" in your favorite search engine and that site's feed URL should be one of the results. If you're unsure where to start, you can do a search for "best RSS feeds for news" or "best RSS feeds for tech reviews" and the results will be many.

Generally, a RSS feed URL looks something like "https://www.wired.com/category/gear/feed" or even "http://feeds.reuters.com/reuters/healthNews". On most sites, they're designated with this RSS feed icon:



If you were to click on a RSS link in your browser, you'll see the raw feed page, which is probably a XML page. Therefore, it will look like a bunch of oddly grouped blocks of text surrounded by XML tags. Fear not: the News Feed reader in SmarterMail can make perfect sense of what you're seeing.

Once you have a feed URL, it's time to add the feed to your News Reader. To do this, click in the RSS icon in the Button Bar at the bottom of the news feed area. Once you do this, a modal will open. Add the feed's name, then the feed URL, and save your change. Once you do, that feed name will show up in your feeds view and, once all of the new feeds are grabbed by SmarterMail, a number will appear next to the feed's name, telling you how many new items were retrieved. Continuing doing this for any new feed you want to add.

You can also edit an existing feed -- for example, you want to rename it or change the feed URL -- and delete feeds using the RSS button. Next to the RSS button in the Button Bar is the "Refresh" button. Use this to manually have SmarterMail retrieve your feeds for any new items.