



## ICS313 – XML Lab – Creating an RSS feed file.

RSS (Really Simple Syndication) is a Web feed format used to publish frequently updated content such as blog entries, news headlines or podcasts. An RSS document, which is called a feed or channel contains a summary of content from a web site.

RSS makes it possible for people to view the feed data without visiting the site by using a feed reader and is another way to get content sent to people as an alternative to email.

We will be creating an RSS feed file using the RSS 2.0 format which is an XML specification.

The main section of an RSS file are "items." and your file will have to include at least one item. Items are generally web pages that you'd like others to visit, usually from your web site.

**Step 1.** An RSS item needs three main pieces of information:

```
<title>Title of the Web page, headline or diary entry</title>
<description>This is usually a larger amount of text that contains the description of the
information contained in the web site or story. </description>
<link>http://the_full_URL_path/</link>
```

**Step 2.** All of these three are then defined within an item tag like so..

```
<item>
<title>Title of the Web page, headline or diary entry</title>
<description>This is usually a larger amount of text that contains the description of the
information contained in the web site or story. </description>
<link>http://the_full_URL_path/</link>
</item>
```

An RSS feed can have up to 15 items with the new ones at the top and the old ones at the bottom.

**Step 3.** Next you have to define some information for your entire site (not just the items). This uses the same format of title/description/link at the top of the file but **without** the <item> tags.

**Step 4.** The <channel> tag should be put above this site information and a closing tag </channel> at the bottom of the file after the last item.

**Step 5.** Above the channel tag you should declare the version of RSS <rss version="2.0"> and then add the closing tag at the very bottom of the file </rss>

**Step 6.** The last step is to indicate that this is an XML document by placing <?xml version="1.0"?> as the very first entry in the file. Note that there is no closing tag.

You should now have a completed RSS XML file. Save the file as **rssfeed.xml** and it is complete.

If you want to include the RSS feed in your web page, just create a link to it's location.

