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RSS Reader. Solution Overview

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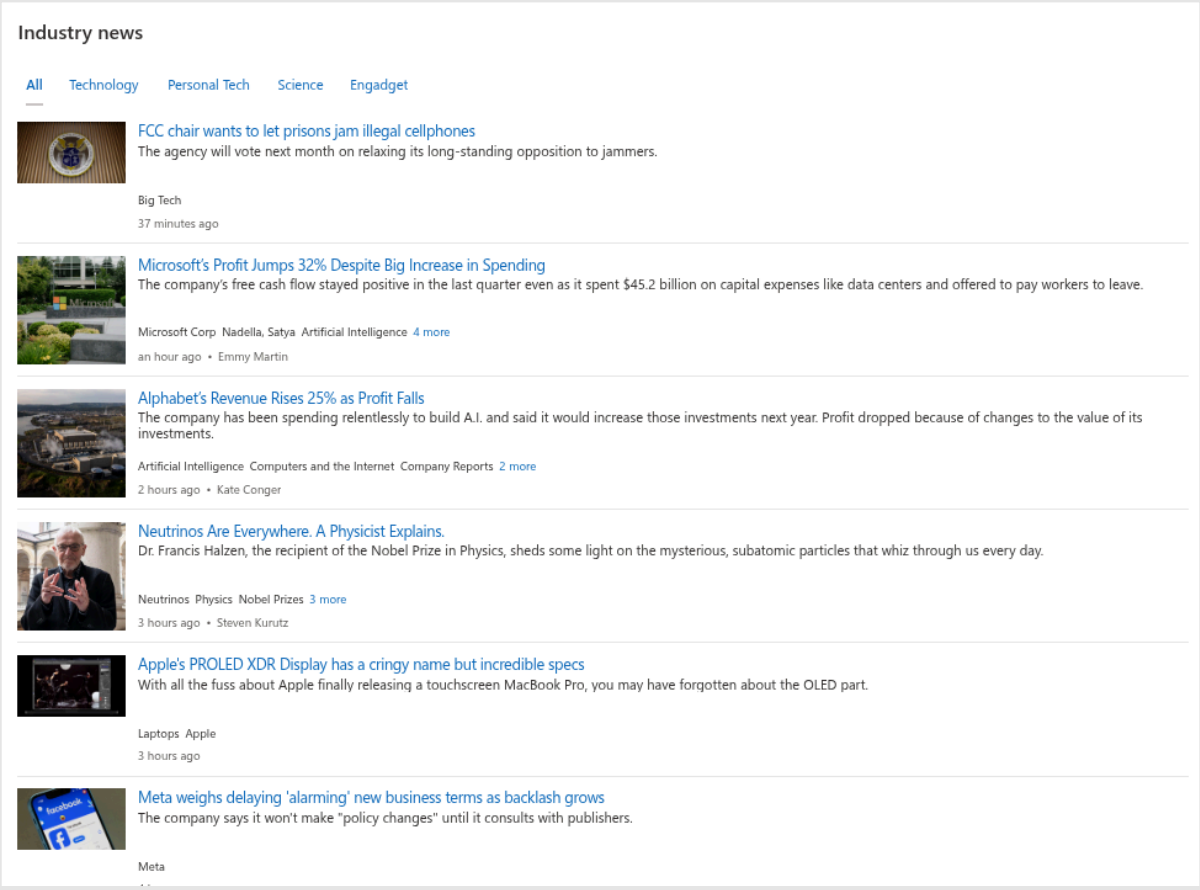
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Introduction

Industry news, regulator announcements, the blog of a key supplier, the company's own press releases on the public website - much of what employees should keep an eye on is published as **RSS** feeds outside the intranet. Modern **SharePoint Online** has no **web part** to show such feeds, so they end up in personal readers, in e-mail or nowhere.

RSS Reader is a **SharePoint** Framework web part that brings any number of RSS feeds onto a SharePoint page or into **Microsoft Teams**. It merges the feeds into one **list** of items, lets readers switch between sources, filter by category and search, and refreshes itself while the page is open. This article is an overview of what the web part does and how it works; the configuration steps are in KB10367. How to Add and Configure the RSS Reader Web Part.



RSS Reader on a SharePoint page

Key capabilities

Several feeds in one web part. The editor adds any number of feeds, each with its address and a display name, and arranges their order. The items of all feeds are merged into a single stream.

Three layouts. *Newsletter* shows an image, the title, a description, categories, the date and the author of each item; *Cards* arranges items as tiles with a large image; *Compact* lists titles with a short description and the date, for sidebars and narrow columns.

Source tabs. With the **Filters** option on, a row of tabs appears above the items: **All** and one tab per feed. Readers switch between sources without leaving the page.

Category filter. Feed items often carry categories (tags). With the **Category** option on, the tags are shown under each item; clicking a tag filters the stream to items with that category, and several tags can be combined.

Search. The optional **Search box** filters the loaded items by title, description, author and source name as the reader types.

Sorting. Items are sorted newest first, oldest first or grouped by source (newest first within each source).

Automatic refresh. The web part reloads the feeds in the background every 1 to 7 minutes without flicker, so a page that stays open on a screen in the lobby or in a team room always shows the latest items.

Images. Images are taken from the feed items and shown in the Newsletter and Cards layouts; they can be hidden with one switch.

Microsoft Teams. The web part works as a tab in a channel and as a personal app. For the personal app, the administrator saves a default configuration once, and every employee gets the same feeds in Teams.

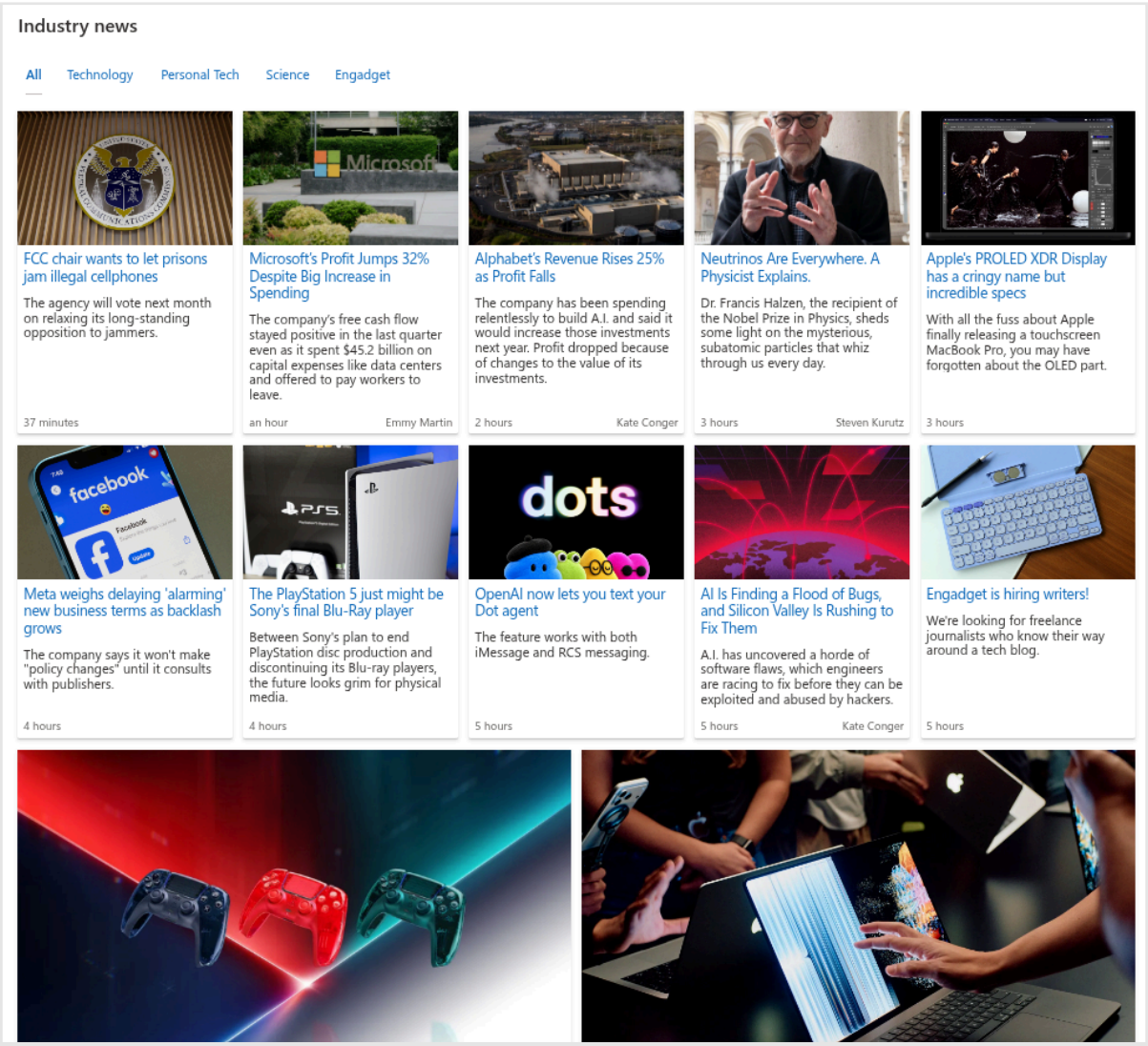
Theme and language. The web part follows the theme of the **site**, including section backgrounds and dark themes in Teams, uses the site's font and is translated into the languages of SharePoint; dates are shown relative to now ("3 hours ago") in the user's language.

How the web part shows items

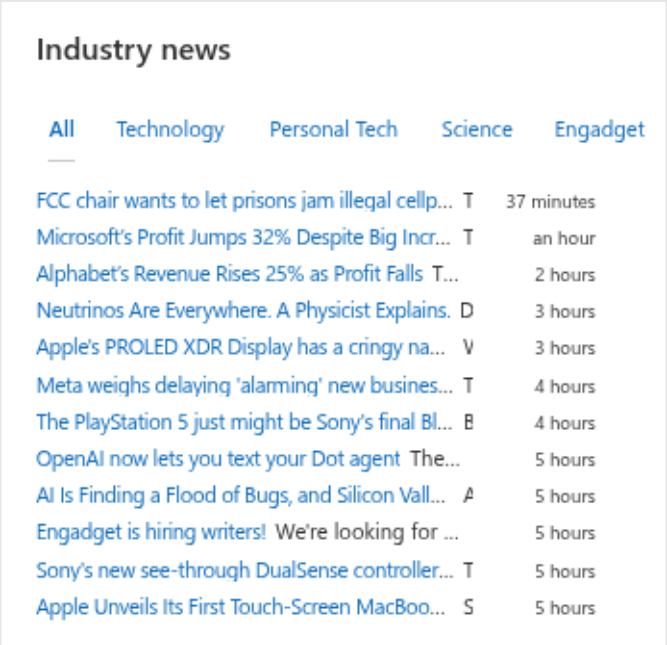
Every item is a link that opens the original article in a new tab. Depending on the layout, the item also shows:

Element	Compact	Newsletter	Cards
Title	Yes	Yes	Yes
Description (plain text from the feed)	One line	Yes	Yes

Element	Compact	Newsletter	Cards
Image	-	Left of the text	On top of the card
Relative date	Yes	Yes	Yes
Author	-	Yes	Yes
Category tags	-	Up to three, with a *N more* link	-



The Cards layout



The Compact layout in a narrow column

The **Items Shown** setting (1 to 40) limits how many items are displayed after the source, category and search filters have been applied. While the feeds are loading, the web part shows placeholder shapes in the selected layout.

How feeds are loaded

A browser is not allowed to download an RSS feed from another website directly: almost no feed host sends the cross-origin headers that would permit it. RSS Reader therefore asks the Vitextra feed service to download the configured feeds. The service fetches the feeds, parses them and returns the items to the browser; the browser never connects to the feed hosts.

Three consequences for administrators:

- The feeds must be **reachable from the internet**. A feed that is available only inside your corporate network cannot be shown.
- The request to the feed service contains the **feed addresses** and the technical identifiers that every Vitextra web part sends for the license check (**Tenant** ID, the object ID of the user, the site address, the product and its version). No data from your tenant is sent.
- Users' browsers need access to `vitextra.com`. Without access, fresh items cannot load; an error is shown if no previously loaded data is available.

After each successful load, the web part saves items in browser session storage, keyed by the set of feed addresses. On reopening a page, a matching cache no older than 30 minutes can appear immediately while fresh items load in the background. Older

entries are ignored, not deleted automatically after 30 minutes. A feed that cannot be downloaded is left out silently: its tab disappears from the source row and the other feeds are shown as usual.

Note

RSS Reader requests no API permissions and reads nothing from SharePoint or **Microsoft Graph**. Feed addresses and display settings are saved in the web part properties. For the complete picture of what Vitextra products send and store, see KB10363. Where Vitextra Products Store Your Data: Privacy, Data Residency and GDPR.

Typical uses

- **Industry news on the intranet home page** - three or four trade publications in the Newsletter layout, with source tabs so that readers pick their sector.
- **Regulatory watch for a department** - the feeds of the relevant authorities in a Compact column next to the department's documents, refreshed automatically.
- **The company in the press** - the news feed of the public corporate website or of a media-monitoring service, in the Cards layout on the **communication site**.
- **A news tab in Teams** - the same feeds as a channel tab for a project team, or as a personal app with a configuration set by the administrator.

Requirements

- **Microsoft 365** with SharePoint Online; modern pages. The web part is not available on classic pages and is not offered for SharePoint Server.
- The package is deployed from the **App Catalog** like any Vitextra product; see KB10035. How to Install a Vitextra Product in SharePoint Online.
- No API permissions to approve.
- Licensing per tenant with a free 14-day trial; see KB10206. Vitextra Licensing and Account: How to Buy and Activate a License.

Terms

App Catalog
The App Catalog is a special SharePoint site that stores apps for SharePoint, Teams, and other Microsoft 365 services. Global or SharePoint administrators can upload and manage applications from the AppSource marketplace, custom-developed apps, or third-party apps for the organization's internal use. There can be only one tenant-level App Catalog in a tenant; site collection app catalogs can be added for individual site collections.

Communication Site
A communication site is a type of SharePoint site designed to broadcast news, reports, and other information to a broad audience. Most users have read-only access, while a small group of authors manages the content.

List
A list is a storage unit in SharePoint. A list can contain columns of different types, content types, and views. A document library is a special type of list and therefore inherits the functionality of a list.

Microsoft 365
Microsoft 365 is a cloud-based subscription service that combines productivity apps such as Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and Outlook with cloud services such as SharePoint, OneDrive, Teams, and Exchange Online, together with advanced security and device management.

Microsoft Graph
Microsoft Graph is a REST API secured with Microsoft Entra ID (formerly Azure Active Directory) and OAuth 2.0. It provides a single endpoint for accessing data and services in Microsoft 365, such as SharePoint, Outlook, OneDrive, Teams, and others.

Microsoft Teams
Microsoft Teams is a chat-based collaboration platform for business communications with features for online meetings, live events, and document sharing.

RSS
RSS (Really Simple Syndication) is a popular web feed format used to deliver updates

from websites to users and applications in a standardized, machine-readable format. This format is commonly used for distributing news articles, blog posts, and other frequently updated content.

SharePoint
SharePoint is a web-based collaboration platform that provides content management, document management, workflow applications, search, and other tools that empower employees and teams to work together. SharePoint is also a secure place to store, organize, and access shared information.

SharePoint Online
The cloud version of SharePoint, a web-based collaboration platform within Microsoft 365 that provides an extensive range of capabilities to store, share, and manage the digital information, content, and knowledge of an organization.

Site
A SharePoint site is a container for information within the SharePoint platform. Sites typically offer features such as document libraries, lists, calendars, discussion boards, and workflows, facilitating collaboration, communication, and document management within teams or across departments. Sites can be customized and configured to suit the specific needs and workflows of an organization.

Tenant
A Microsoft 365 tenant is a dedicated instance of Microsoft 365 services. The tenant holds the organization's information, such as users and domains (Microsoft Entra ID), configurations, subscriptions, and services. An organization receives a tenant by signing up for Microsoft 365 services.

Web Part
A web part is a primary building block of functionality or content placed on a SharePoint page. Some web parts support customization, such as configuring the web part or changing its appearance.