

KNOWLEDGE BASE ARTICLE

RSS Reader. Solution Overview



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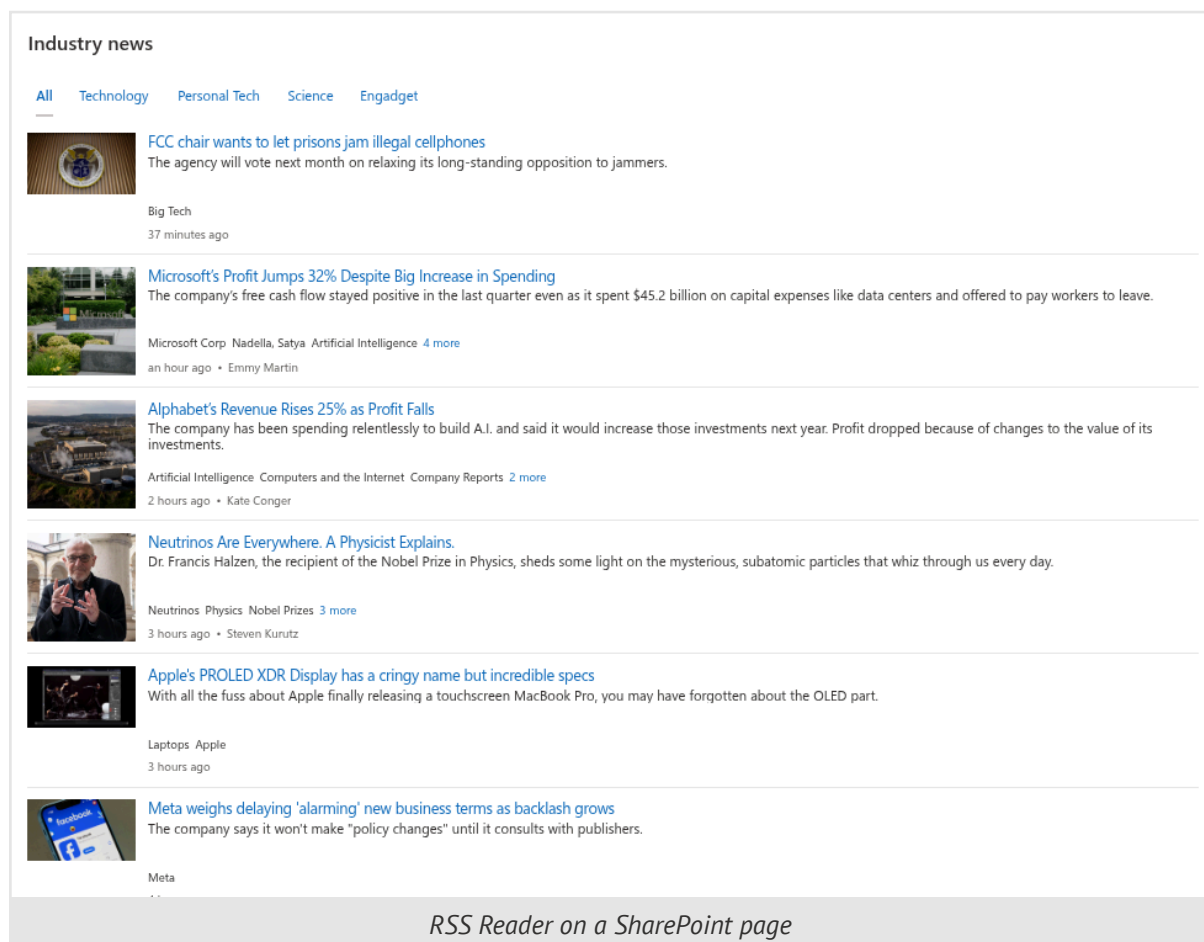
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Introduction

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](#).



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 <i>N more</i> link	—

Industry news

[All](#) [Technology](#) [Personal Tech](#) [Science](#) [Engadget](#)



FCC chair wants to let prisons jam illegal cellphones

The agency will vote next month on relaxing its long-standing opposition to jammers.

37 minutes



Microsoft's Profit Jumps 32% Despite Big Increase in Spending

The company's free cash flow stayed positive in the last quarter even as it spent \$45.2 billion on capital expenses like data centers and offered to pay workers to leave.

an hour Emmy Martin



Alphabet's Revenue Rises 25% as Profit Falls

The company has been spending relentlessly to build A.I. and said it would increase those investments next year. Profit dropped because of changes to the value of its investments.

2 hours Kate Conger



Neutrinos Are Everywhere. A Physicist Explains.

Dr. Francis Halzen, the recipient of the Nobel Prize in Physics, sheds some light on the mysterious, subatomic particles that whiz through us every day.

3 hours Steven Kurutz



Apple's PROLED XDR Display has a cringy name but incredible specs

With all the fuss about Apple finally releasing a touchscreen MacBook Pro, you may have forgotten about the OLED part.

3 hours



Meta weighs delaying 'alarming' new business terms as backlash grows

The company says it won't make "policy changes" until it consults with publishers.

4 hours



The PlayStation 5 just might be Sony's final Blu-Ray player

Between Sony's plan to end PlayStation disc production and discontinuing its Blu-ray players, the future looks grim for physical media.

4 hours



OpenAI now lets you text your Dot agent

The feature works with both iMessage and RCS messaging.

5 hours



AI Is Finding a Flood of Bugs, and Silicon Valley Is Rushing to Fix Them

A.I. has uncovered a horde of software flaws, which engineers are racing to fix before they can be exploited and abused by hackers.

5 hours Kate Conger



Engadget is hiring writers!

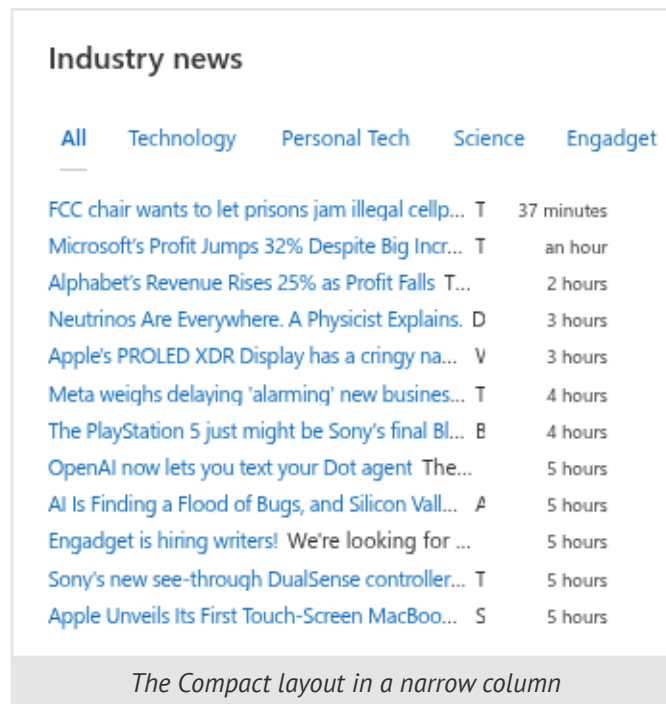
We're looking for freelance journalists who know their way around a tech blog.

5 hours





The Cards layout



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 it, the web part shows an error instead of the items.

Loaded items are kept in the session storage of the browser for up to 30 minutes, so that a page opened again shows the items instantly and refreshes them in the background. 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. Its only data are the feed addresses 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](#).