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RSS in Modern SharePoint Online: Why There Is No Built-in Web Part and What to Use Instead



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Overview

"Where is the **RSS web part**?" is one of the first questions from teams that move a classic intranet to modern **SharePoint Online** pages. Classic pages had the **RSS Viewer**; modern pages have no equivalent, and the toolbox search for *RSS* returns nothing. This article explains why, looks at what the classic web part did, and compares the four practical ways to show an external feed on a modern page - including the Vitextra RSS Reader - so that you can pick the one that fits your case.

Note

The statements about Microsoft's web parts reflect the Microsoft documentation and Tech Community discussions as of 2026. Microsoft changes the modern page toolbox regularly; check the current documentation for the latest state.

What the classic RSS Viewer did

The classic **RSS Viewer** web part fetched a feed on the server and displayed its items using an XSL template. It showed one feed per web part, with advanced formatting available through XSLT. The feed had to be reachable by the SharePoint server; a feed on a private corporate network was not automatically accessible to SharePoint Online.

The classic web part still exists on classic pages in SharePoint Online, but it cannot be placed on a modern page, and classic pages do not render in **Microsoft Teams** or on mobile the way modern pages do.

Why modern pages have no RSS web part

Modern SharePoint pages do not include a built-in equivalent of the classic RSS Viewer. Modern SPFx web parts run in the browser, where cross-origin requests are subject to CORS: if a feed host does not allow requests from the SharePoint origin, a script cannot read the feed directly. A server-side proxy can retrieve such feeds. This is an implementation constraint, not a documented explanation of Microsoft's product decision.

The web parts that look related do something else:

- **News** shows SharePoint news posts from the current **site**, hub or selected sites - not external feeds.
- **Embed** inserts an `<iframe>` or embed code from a website that your administrator has allowed in the **HTML Field Security** settings of the **site collection**; it cannot render an XML feed by itself.

- **Highlighted content** and **Events** roll up SharePoint content.
- The **Feed for Viva Connections** web part, which aggregated SharePoint news and Viva Engage posts, has been retired by Microsoft and never read RSS.

The options compared

	Power Automate	**Embed web part with a third-party widget**	**Custom SPFx web part**	**Vitextra RSS Reader**
How it works	A flow copies new feed items into a SharePoint list; a List web part shows the list	An external service converts the feed to HTML; the Embed web part shows it in an iframe	Your own web part downloads the feed through a proxy you build (for example, an Azure Function)	A web part downloads feeds through the Vitextra feed service and renders them
Several feeds in one **view**	Yes, one flow per feed into the same list	Depends on the widget	Yes, if you build it	Yes, with source tabs
Up to date	Delayed by the flow interval (minutes to hours)	Live	Live	Live, with automatic refresh every 1–7 minutes
Images, categories, search	What you build in the list view	Depends on the widget; branding of the service is often shown	What you build	Yes: images, category tags, search box, three layouts
Look and feel	SharePoint list or news styling	Foreign styling inside an iframe, no theme support	As designed	Follows the SharePoint theme, section backgrounds and dark mode
Microsoft	List web part	Iframe in a tab,	If you add	Channel tab

	Power Automate	**Embed web part with a third-party widget**	**Custom SPFx web part**	**Vitextra RSS Reader**
Teams	in a tab	often blocked	Teams support	and personal app
Where feed data goes	Into a SharePoint list (stored permanently)	To the widget provider	Through your proxy	Through the Vitextra feed service; browser session cache; no SharePoint archive
Set-up effort	A flow per feed, a list, a view	Account with the provider, allow the domain in HTML Field Security	Development, hosting, maintenance	Deploy the package, add the web part, enter the feed addresses
Ongoing cost	Power Automate connector limits and run quotas	Subscription of the widget provider	Hosting and developer time	Vitextra subscription per **tenant**

Option 1. A Power Automate flow into a list

Power Automate has a trigger **When a feed item is published** for RSS. A flow creates a SharePoint list item for every new feed item - title, link, summary, publication date - and a **List** web part shows the list on the page; some teams even create news posts from the items.

This is a good fit when you want the items **kept** in SharePoint (searchable, retained, commentable) or when only one or two feeds matter. The drawbacks are the delay between publication and the flow run, one flow per feed, the maintenance of the flows under a personal account, and the list view as the only presentation: no images from the feed unless you parse them, no source tabs, and the list grows without limit

unless you clean it up.

Option 2. The Embed web part with a third-party widget

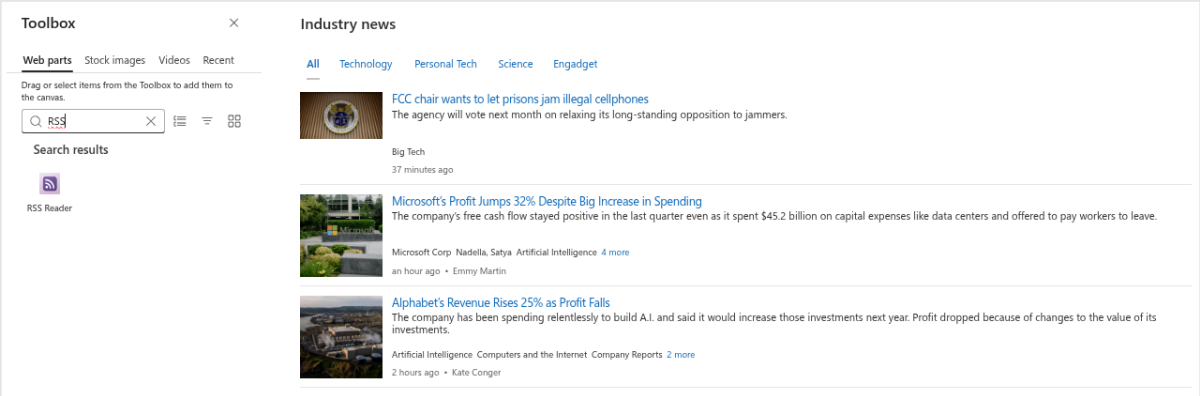
Services such as RSS-to-HTML widget generators produce an embed code that the **Embed** web part can show. The result is live and needs no development, but the feed content is rendered by an external company inside an iframe: it does not follow the SharePoint theme, usually carries the provider's branding or requires a paid plan to remove it, needs the provider's domain to be allowed in the **HTML Field Security** settings of every site collection, and often does not display in Microsoft Teams, where iframes from arbitrary hosts are restricted.

Option 3. A custom SPFx web part

A developer can build an RSS web part with the SharePoint Framework. The web part itself is a small amount of code; the real work is the **proxy** that downloads the feeds server-side to get around CORS - an Azure Function or an API in Azure API Management - plus hosting, authentication, monitoring, and keeping the web part compatible with SPFx releases. This is the right path when the feed is available only inside your network and must not pass through any external service, or when the requirements are far from a standard news list.

Option 4. Vitextra RSS Reader

RSS Reader is a ready-made SPFx web part that follows the same architecture as a custom one - the feeds are downloaded by a server-side service and rendered in the browser - without the development and hosting. The editor enters the feed addresses and display names, chooses the Compact, Newsletter or Cards layout, turns source tabs, category tags, images and a search box on or off and sets the sort order and the refresh interval. The web part follows the theme of the site and works as a channel tab and personal app in Microsoft Teams. It needs no API permissions and stores nothing in your tenant beyond the web part properties.



RSS Reader in the toolbox and on a page

What it does not do: feeds that are reachable only inside your corporate network cannot be shown, because the feed service downloads them from the internet; and the items are not stored in SharePoint - if you want an archive of the items, combine the web part with a Power Automate flow.

Tip

The setup takes a few minutes; see KB10367. How to Add and Configure the RSS Reader Web Part. All features are available during the free 14-day trial.

Which option to choose

- The feed items must be **archived and searchable** in SharePoint → a Power Automate flow into a list.
- The feed is **internal only** or compliance forbids any external service → a custom SPFx web part with your own proxy.
- You need a **quick, themed, multi-feed news block** on pages and in Teams, with filters and automatic refresh → Vitextra RSS Reader.
- You need to show one feed on one page for a short time and do not mind external branding → the Embed web part with a widget.

Terms

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

Power Automate
Microsoft Power Automate is a cloud-based service that allows users to create automated workflows between applications and services. It enables the automation of repetitive tasks and processes, such as data collection, notifications, and approvals, without the need for extensive coding knowledge.

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 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.

Site Collection
A site collection is a group of one or more SharePoint sites, subsites, and related

content. A site collection typically shares common settings, permissions, and configuration, providing a cohesive environment for users to work together on projects, departments, or specific areas of focus. Site collections are often used to separate content and control access rights based on organizational structure, security requirements, or project needs.

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.

View
A view is a saved configuration that determines which items of a list or library are displayed and how, including the columns, sorting, filtering, grouping, and layout. Views can be personal or public.

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.