

Best Free RSS Reader-Aggregator - Quick Selection Guide

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FeedDemon

- Our rating: 10
- Product type: Runs as a stand-alone program on a user's computer
- Pros: FeedDemon is a power-user's dream, but it's intuitive enough for intermediate level users. It integrates seamlessly with the web-based Google Reader - subscribe to and manage feeds in either FeedDemon or Google Reader. That gives you the best of the desktop and web-based worlds. FeedDemon handles feeds with attachments, like podcasts, very well too. It also handles secure feeds (those that require a username and password).
- Cons: Perhaps a bit complex for a neophyte user.
- Developers website: <http://www.feeddemon.com/>
- Download page: <http://www.feeddemon.com/>
- Version: 4.0
- Download file size: 3.9 MB
- License type: Feature limited freeware
- Portable version available: There is no portable version of this product available.
- System requirements: Windows XP, Vista or 7, with IE 7 or later installed (also runs fine on Windows 8, with IE 10).
- Additional information: The free version of FeedDemon is ad-supported (one small add in the lower-left corner). You can suppress the ad in the Pro version. There free version also has a few feature restrictions.

FeedReader

- Our rating: 8
- Product type: Runs as a stand-alone program on a user's computer
- Pros: Simple, straightforward feed reader that easily handles a (very) large number of feeds. Has the essential options, and not a lot of confusing ones. Does not require Java (many other readers do for some reason). Import or export OPML files. Option to open links in an external browser.
- Cons: Not as many options as FeedDemon (but simpler to use). Does not sync with Google Reader.
- Developers website: <http://feedreader.com/>
- Download page: <http://feedreader.com/download>
- Version: 3.14
- Download file size: 6.2 MB
- License type: Unrestricted freeware
- Portable version available: A portable version of this product is available from the developer.
- System requirements: Windows XP, 7 & 8

BlogBridge

Our rating: 6

- Product type: Runs as a stand-alone program on a user's computer
- Pros: Runs on Mac, Windows AND Linux. Targeted at power users who subscribe to many feeds. Designed to make it easy to discover feeds you'll be interested in. Gives you access to "Guides", which are written by experts in many different feed categories. Upload a list of your feeds to a free "BlogBridge Service" account to synchronize your

- feeds across multiple computers.
- Cons: Requires Java.
- Developers website: <http://www.blogbridge.com/>
- Download page: <http://www.blogbridge.com/downloads/blogbridge/>
- Version: 6.7
- Download file size: 5.1 MB
- License type: Unrestricted freeware
- Portable version available: There is no portable version of this product available.
- System requirements: Windows, Mac and Linux. Requires Java.

RSSOwl

- Our rating: 6
- Product type: Runs as a stand-alone program on a user's computer
- Pros: A powerful, classic RSS reader, along the lines of FeedDemon. Many filtering, viewing, tagging and organizing options. Syncs with Google Reader accounts.
- Cons: Requires Java.
- Developers website: <http://www.rssowl.org/>
- Download page: <http://sourceforge.net/projects/rssowl/>
- Version: 2.1.2
- Download file size: 5 MB
- 64 Bit compatibility: 32 and 64 bit versions available
- License type: Unrestricted freeware
- Portable version available: This product is portable.
- System requirements: Windows, Mac and Linux. Requires Java.
- Additional information: NOTE: See the comment at - <http://www.techsupportalert.com/best-free-rss-reader-aggregator.htm#comm...>
- about freeze problems.
To set up the mode I prefer (a simple list of posts in the reader, and open the ones of interest in Firefox) use the following preferences. 1) View > Layout > pick "Classic" > move divider to the bottom of the list panel. 2) Tools > Preferences > Browser > pick "Use the standard external browser (Mozilla Firefox)"

Omea Reader

- Our rating: 6
- Product type: Runs as a stand-alone program on a user's computer
- Developers website: <http://www.jetbrains.com/omea/>
- Download page: <http://www.jetbrains.com/omea/reader/index.html>
- Version: 2.1.2
- Download file size: 5 MB
- License type: Unrestricted freeware
- Portable version available: There is no portable version of this product available.
- System requirements: Windows 2000/XP/2003, requires Microsoft .NET.

WebReader

- Our rating: 6
- Product type: Runs as a stand-alone program on a user's computer
- Pros: Desktop companion of a series of mobile-apps for iPad, iPhone, and Kindle Fire (so far). Has just the few important options you'd find in a mobile-app. That makes it easy to learn how to use, especially if you're familiar with touch-centric devices. WebReader

makes it easy to access web feeds by list, excerpts or full posts, and adds "Previous" / "Next" arrows to navigate with. Read original content at websites/blogs directly in the reading pane.

- Cons: Does not sync directly with Google Reader, but imports/exports OPML files, which allows you to sync indirectly. Requires Adobe Air.
- Developers website:
<http://www.getwebreader.com/>
- Download page:
<http://www.getwebreader.com/best-desktop-rss-reader/>
- Version: 0.8.80
- Download file size: 1.8 MB
- License type: Unrestricted freeware
- Portable version available: There is no portable version of this product available.
- System requirements: Windows, Mac or Linux

RSS Bandit

- Our rating: 5
- Product type: Runs as a stand-alone program on a user's computer
- Pros: Elegant, full featured open-source program. Nice balance between capable and complex. Ties in with IE7 feed subscriptions through the Windows RSS Platform.
- Cons: Requires Microsoft .NET Framework 3.5
- Developers website:
<http://www.rssbandit.org/>
- Download page:
<http://rssbandit.org/download/rss-bandit-download/>
- Version: 1.9.0
- Download file size: 8.2 MB
- License type: Open source freeware
- Portable version available: There is no portable version of this product available.
- System requirements: Windows 2000/XP/2003 Server. Requires Microsoft .NET Framework 3.5

Awasu

- Our rating: 4
- Product type: Runs as a stand-alone program on a user's computer
- Pros: Elegant, full featured. Nice balance between capable and complex. Widely used by business users.
- Cons: The file size is relatively large (but Awasu doesn't require .NET or Java).
- Developers website:
<http://www.awasu.com/>
- Download page:
<http://www.awasu.com/releases/index.php?js=no>
- Version: 3.0
- Download file size: 38 MB
- License type: Feature limited freeware
- Portable version available: There is no portable version of this product available.
- System requirements: Windows 98/XP/Vista/7