

Google Reader

google.com/reader

*Track hundreds of Websites easily, from a
single Web interface*

what is it?

The proliferation of Websites makes keeping track of what is new feel like a full time job. Who has the time to scan hundreds, if not thousands, of new web pages every day?

Google Reader helps simplify your daily scan of the Web by aggregating RSS feeds. RSS is a machine-readable version of the Website that Google Reader uses to quickly show you a summary of what was posted recently on the site. By subscribing to a Website's RSS feed, and then organizing many feeds into groups inside Google Reader, you can easily skim through hundreds of posts in each category. Click on a promising article and Reader shows you the entire posting.

Think of Google Reader as the daily digest of the Websites you want to read.

educational use?

Every teacher and researcher struggles to keep up with all of the relevant information in their area. The widespread use of RSS and now common distribution of content over the Web makes Google Reader a primary ally in the daily management of information. Using Google Reader lets you stay up to date with more information, taking less time. Also, sharing your Reader feeds is a great way to help students find out what sites they might consider following.

pros & cons?

Different sites implement RSS differently. Most sites have an RSS link or button that you can click to add a feed to your Reader account. But not always. Some new users might find getting their Reader account configured the way they want it a bit of a challenge. But once you have your Reader being feed, scanning and reading is a snap.

what's it cost?

Google Reader does not cost a dime.

alternatives?

Bloglines (<http://www.bloglines.com>) and FeedDemon (<http://www.feedException.com>) are two popular alternatives to Google Reader. And there are others. Which RSS reader you choose ultimately depends on the features and interface you like the best.

resources?

Google Reader in Plain English

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VSPZ2Uu_X3Y

RSS in Plain English

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VSPZ2Uu_X3Y