



## **The Handbook**

### **Codex**

[http://codex.wordpress.org/Customizing\\_Feeds](http://codex.wordpress.org/Customizing_Feeds)

### **Version Date**

6 August 2005

## Customizing Feeds

If terms like **feed**, **syndication**, and **RSS** make your head spin, stop right now and read an [Introduction to Syndication](#). That will give you a [good overview of feeds](#) and syndication. We have an article on [WordPress Feeds](#) to help you understand the basics, if you need them, but from here on, this article assumes that you know the basics of what feeds are and how they are used.

Customized feeds give your readers more information about you and your blog: you can include the names of additional collaborators on your blog posts, or a link to your Friend-of-a-Friend file. Contrariwise, it can also help you restrict the information available for syndication, by removing extraneous data or providing a machine-readable version of your copyright statement.

### *How WordPress Produces Feeds*

WordPress uses a set of feed templates to display your site's feeds, in much the same way as it uses theme templates to display your content. These feed templates are located in the main WordPress directory; they are not compatible with the Theme system.

The following theme templates are included with WordPress:

wp-rss.php

Displays your entries in [RSS 1.0](#) (<http://purl.org/rss/1.0/>) format.

wp-rss2.php

Displays your entries in [RSS 2.0](#) (<http://blogs.law.harvard.edu/tech/rss>) format.

wp-atom.php

Displays your entries in [Atom](#) (<http://www.atomenabled.org/>) format.

wp-commentsrss2.php

Displays comments - either the most recent comments on all posts, or the comments on a specific post - in RSS 2.0 format.

### *Customizing Your Feeds*

There are a variety of ways to customize your feeds, through the use of third-party software you install and add-on to your WordPress site, or by manually changing the feed templates to meet your needs.

### **Third-Party Software**

Some third-party web services can help you manage and customize your feeds. Using such services can be a simple way to do things like counting the number of people who read your feed, or combining your blog's feed with your Flickr photostream.

Such services include:

- [FeedBurner](#) (<http://www.feedburner.com/>) - see [Using FeedBurner](#)

## Customizing Feed Templates

Editing your feed templates is much the same as editing your theme templates. However, feed templates are not integrated into the WordPress theme system; if you would like different versions of your feeds, you'll need to create extra feed templates or apply [this patch](http://wordpress.org/support/topic/25905) (<http://wordpress.org/support/topic/25905>) to your WordPress installation.

Many specialized template tags exist specifically to format your content in a way that complies with the RSS standards. They include:

- [the\\_category\\_rss](#)
- [comment\\_author\\_rss](#)
- [comment\\_text\\_rss](#)
- [permalink\\_comments\\_rss](#)
- [comment\\_link\\_rss](#)
- [bloginfo\\_rss](#)
- [the\\_title\\_rss](#)
- [permalink\\_single\\_rss](#)
- [the\\_content\\_rss](#)
- [the\\_excerpt\\_rss](#)

Let's look at some examples of how to use these template tags with your WordPress site feeds.

### Make PubDate Work with Non-English Dates

The default [RSS 2.0](#) feed in WordPress 1.5 displays the date elements of posts using some language-specific terms, i.e., day and month names. If you're using a localized version (non-English) of WordPress, some feed readers may not correctly interpret these names, causing errors in display and/or validation. **If you are using a WordPress version later than 1.5.1, the problem with [international dates in feeds](http://mosquito.wordpress.org/view.php?id=891) (<http://mosquito.wordpress.org/view.php?id=891>) has been fixed.**

To solve this problem in prior versions of WordPress, open `wp-rss2.php` and change the entry **pubDate** element from:

```
<pubDate>
<?php echo mysql2date('D, d M Y H:i:s +0000', get_the_time('Y-m-d H:i:s')); ?>
</pubDate>
```

to:

```
<pubDate>
<?php echo mysql2date('r', get_the_time('Y-m-d H:i:s')); ?>
</pubDate>
```

The 'r' is a generic [PHP date format](http://www.php.net/date) (<http://www.php.net/date>) that does not rely on translated strings.

### Adding Entry Titles to Your Comments Feed

This example sets the title of each item in your comments RSS feed from **By: Harriet** to

**Harriet on Sample Post**, which helps provide some context when reading the main feed of all comments on your blog. Because `the_title_rss` doesn't work outside [The Loop](#), it's necessary to duplicate part of its function in your template.

The following code should be put in `wp_commentsrss2.php`, just after the beginning of the comment loop:

```
<item>
<?php
    /* First, grab the title of the entry on
       which the comment was posted */
    $title = get_the_title($comment->comment_post_ID);

    /* Now sanitize the formatting for RSS */
    $title = apply_filters('the_title', $title);
    $title = apply_filters('the_title_rss', $title);
?>
<title><?php comment_author_rss() ?> on <?php echo $title ?></title>
```

Alternatively, [this plugin](http://freepressblog.org/2005/06/17/titles-in-wordpress-rss-comments/) (<http://freepressblog.org/2005/06/17/titles-in-wordpress-rss-comments/>) will achieve the same result without hacking your wordpress install.

## ***Checking Your New Feed***

To see your new feed, you can use any of the many feed readers available on the Internet. While your feed might look good to you in the different readers, it might still have problems.

Feed formats are designed to be read and manipulated by machines; errors in your feed template can make your feed unreadable to some or all feedreaders. So after you make all your changes, it's a good idea to check that your feed meets the relevant standards. Validation services include:

- [Feedvalidator.org](http://feedvalidator.org/) (<http://feedvalidator.org/>) - for Atom and RSS feeds.
- [Experimental RSS 1.0 Validator](http://www.ldodds.com/rss_validator/1.0/validator.html) ([http://www.ldodds.com/rss\\_validator/1.0/validator.html](http://www.ldodds.com/rss_validator/1.0/validator.html))
- [Redlands RSS 1.0 Validator](http://librdf.org/rss/) (<http://librdf.org/rss/>)
- [Feeds.archives.org](http://feeds.archive.org/validator/) (<http://feeds.archive.org/validator/>)

## ***More Information and Resources***

- [Syndication plugins](#)
- [How to add an image to your RSS 2.0 feed](http://wordlog.com/archives/2004/08/01/add-an-image-to-your-rss-20-field/) (<http://wordlog.com/archives/2004/08/01/add-an-image-to-your-rss-20-field/>)
- [Tutorial on Writing RSS 1.0](http://www.oreillynet.com/pub/a/network/2000/08/25/magazine/rss_tut.html) ([http://www.oreillynet.com/pub/a/network/2000/08/25/magazine/rss\\_tut.html](http://www.oreillynet.com/pub/a/network/2000/08/25/magazine/rss_tut.html))
- [Extending RSS 2.0 with Namespaces](http://www.disobey.com/detergent/2002/extendingrss2/) (<http://www.disobey.com/detergent/2002/extendingrss2/>)
- [RSS Style for Your WordPress Feed](#)