BottomFeeder is an RSS/Atom News Aggregator.  It's free, open source (Artistic License) and may be downloaded from: http://www.cincomsmalltalk.com/BottomFeeder

What is an RSS/Atom News Aggregator?  The best way to explain is to quote from the online Tutorial for BottomFeeder:

Keywords: RSS, Atom, Syndication, Subscription, News, Aggregator, XML, HTML, HTTP

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Supported Smalltalk Platforms: VisualWorks 7.3
Supported on Windows (98/ME/2000/XP), Mac (OS 8/9, X), Linux (x86, SPARC, PPC), Windows CE (ARM, x86), Solaris, HPUX, SGI Irix, AIX 5.x

Lots of people have vanity pages in their ISP's server: usually just a few pages of pictures and links hardly anyone ever looks at, ever links to, or ever goes back to. But some people work hard to establish a meaningful Internet identity. They build their own website or weblog, keeping in mind three important goals: make it easy to find, make it attractive, and make it sticky.

- Easy-to-find means there are lots of links to your website: from other websites, from syndicators, and from search engines.
- Attractive means great presentation and great content. People who find your website have to quickly find content that is interesting, well-organized and well-presented; otherwise, they will blow right by it.
- Sticky means people come back for more visits to see what is new. It also means there is something that brings them back, reminders that good things are happening on your website that they want to be part of. One way to be sticky is to send e-mail to *subscribers* whenever there is something new. Another way is to publish a feed, a file that makes it easy for people to find out what is new. It also helps if you register the feed with a syndicator.

Whether you have your own website or blog, or just comment on those of others, people come to recognize your name, and hopefully respect your opinions. Your goals, now, are the inverse of someone who builds a personal website: finding good websites, evaluating them, and keeping up with them.

- Finding websites. The search engines tend to inundate you with too many hits to check out individually, but you can almost always narrow the list over a series of searches. There are many websites that organize and categorize other websites by topic. The value of these websites depends on the quality of the categories, and how well the list of websites in each category is maintained. And of course, you can follow links provided by other people in messages that catch your interest.
- Evaluating websites. Determining how well a website meets your interests, and will continue to meet them, can be difficult. Surfing pages, blog entries and messages gives you a first taste, but that can be time-consuming. Some websites provide a mechanism for visitors to vote on content, which can be helpful - depending on who does the voting. And of course, there are recommendations from people you have come to trust.
- Keeping up with changing websites. Once you have found a set of websites you like, how do you keep up with their changes? You can periodically surf each of them - if you have mountains of free time. Or you can subscribe to e-mail notices, from the sites that provide that service. Or you can use a type of program called an aggregator to periodically check a list of websites for changes. This works great, but only for websites that provide a feed.

If you really want a strong presence on the Internet, you have to do all of the above. You have to create a quality website of your own, and you have to find, evaluate and keep up with many other websites. For all of this, you need tools - good tools like BottomFeeder!
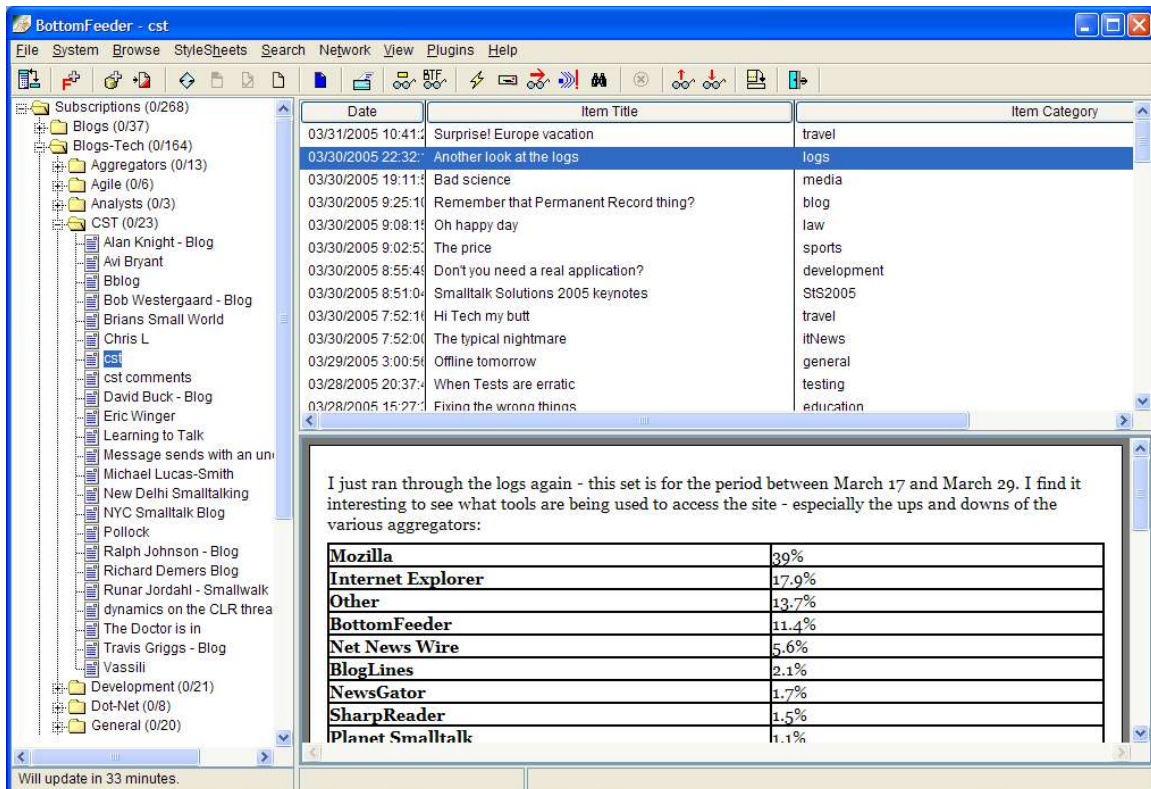
BottomFeeder supports all the relevant standards in the RSS/Atom arena – all the versions of RSS and Atom, the various methods for communicating with websites (Trackback, Pingback, RSS Text Input, Comment API). It's a client news aggregator that allows you to track news, blogs, and product information quickly and easily. It's tied in with all the major search engines, enabling subscription to user defined searches.

BottomFeeder demonstrates a high quality, popular Smalltalk application (it is now downloaded over 500 times per day) that uses current technology – HTTP, XML, HTML display, and blogging. There are a number of plugins available for BottomFeeder, enabling additional functionality:

· A blog client that supports the MetaWebLog API, the Blogger API, the MT API, and the API defined by my own Silt blog server
· An IRC client, TypeLess
· An Enclosure manager – enclosures being associated with podcasting
· Numerous games, such as Minesweeper, Xonix, and Asteroids.
· A scripting tool, allowing users to create local scripts inside BottomFeeder

Below are some screen shots:

The Main UI in the default display mode:

The main UI, in 2 pane "all new" mode:

Zoomed mode, expanding the HTML view pane: