

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!

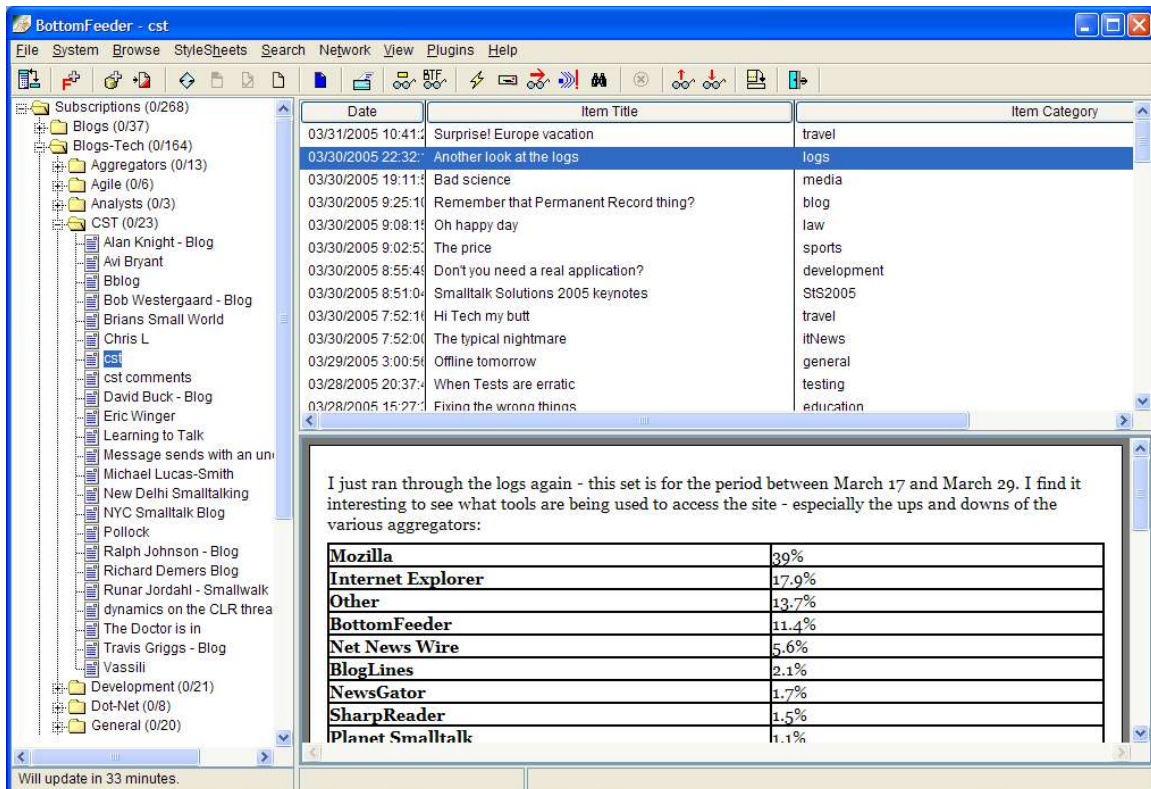
BottomFeeder supports all the relevant standards in the RSS/Atom arena – all the versions of RSS and Atom, the various methods for communicating with websites (Trackback, Pingback, RSS Text Input, Comment API). It's a client news aggregator that allows you to track news, blogs, and product information 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:

Title	Date	Item Title	Item Category
C2 Wiki Feed	7-03-04 11:03 AM	ChangesInMarch	None
C2 Wiki Feed	7-03-04 11:03 AM	RecentChanges	None
C2 Wiki Feed	7-03-04 11:03 AM	VbOo	None
C2 Wiki Feed	7-03-04 11:03 AM	WikiSuccessCanInhibitNewWriters	None
C2 Wiki Feed	7-03-04 11:03 AM	MrUll	None
C2 Wiki Feed	7-03-04 11:03 AM	StoredProceduresAreOk	None
C2 Wiki Feed	7-03-04 11:03 AM	SegmentationFault	None
C2 Wiki Feed	7-03-04 11:03 AM	SegFault	None
PragDave	7-03-04 11:03 AM	Our Third Title!	None
CST Blog	7-03-04 10:26 AM	Doc swings and misses	tv
d2r	7-03-04 10:51 AM	on click tracking, logfile--and back to google	soft.dev

So I was wondering today what was happening with one of my logfiles, which couldn't be parsed (This after spending ONE HOUR cleaning up a rash of spam comments on this weblog). The parsing was failing even though the log format was fine, and I finally identified the culprit as a line which included something similar to the following baffling text in the referer field:

```
onmousedown=\"return clk(2,this)\"
```

This was, needless to say, extremely weird. After some digging I found this [thread at webmasterworld](#). Quote:

I know, Google has been sporadically tracking clicks on result listings through redirects. It looks like click tracking is obviously now a default but instead of rewriting the listings' urls to redirects, the tracking is done through a "hidden" JavaScript function that activates a image request to track the click + position of the listing.

[...]

The listings' urls within the serps look like this:

java.net Weblogs 50%

Zoomed mode, expanding the HTML view pane:

The screenshot shows the BottomFeeder application window. On the left is a sidebar with a tree view of subscriptions, including categories like 'Blogs-Tech', 'Aggregators', and 'CST'. The main content area displays a feed item with the following text:

I've been using Wikis for many years now - the [VW Wiki at UIUC](#) has been a valuable resource for Smalltalk developers for a long time, and the [Cincom Smalltalk Wiki](#) is a place where we (the Cincom Smalltalk team) put out information on what we have coming down the pipeline. As a team, we use Wikis for internal communication as well. Periodically, I get asked "So what's the difference between a Wiki and a blog? Both allow for user editable web page - why use one over the other?"

It's a good question. As it happens, the two kinds of websites have some rough similarities (both are user editable in some sense) - but they also differ quite a bit. In broad terms, a Wiki has what you might call an *emergent voice* - it's an agglomeration of the input of the community of users who are interested in the content being managed. Here's an example - the history for one of the pages on the VW Wiki:

Version	Type	Author	Creation Time
32	Reverted To Version 32	32_303_148_228_dont_mugh@BB.com	20041011 04:11:07
31	Revised	30_148_116_071	20041010 18:28:48
30	Revised	add-66-125-229-211-add-66@01.parchell.net	20040907 18:22:24
29	Revised	add-66-125-229-211-add-66@01.parchell.net	20040407 18:11:59
28	Revised	travis-66-190-090-travis@01.parchell.net	20031002 13:03:33
27	Reverted To Version 27	travis-66-190-090-travis@01.parchell.net	20031002 13:09:02
26	Revised	travis-66@01.parchell.net	20031002 08:27:09
25	Revised	travis-66@01.parchell.net	20031002 08:27:09
24	Revised	add-66-176-152-44-add-66@01.parchell.net	20021023 11:31:51
23	Revised	gregg-palmer@	20020817 09:56:46
22	Revised	add-66-125-229-211-add-66@01.parchell.net	20020911 14:49:42
21	Revised	add-66-176-152-44-add-66@01.parchell.net	20020911 09:05:13
20	Revised	add-66-166-224-96-add-66@01.parchell.net	20021009 18:44:24
19	Revised	add-66-176-152-44-add-66@01.parchell.net	20021014 09:59:27
18	Revised	add-66-166-224-96-add-66@01.parchell.net	20010807 14:19:42
17	Revised	add-66-166-224-96-add-66@01.parchell.net	20010823 21:27:43
16	Revised	add-66-166-224-96-add-66@01.parchell.net	20010823 21:27:43

See how there's a long list of editing changes across time? That page was originally created in October of 1999 - and the last (real) edit of it was in April of this year. Looking at the list of edits, you can see that the page was edited by

Will update in 6 minutes.