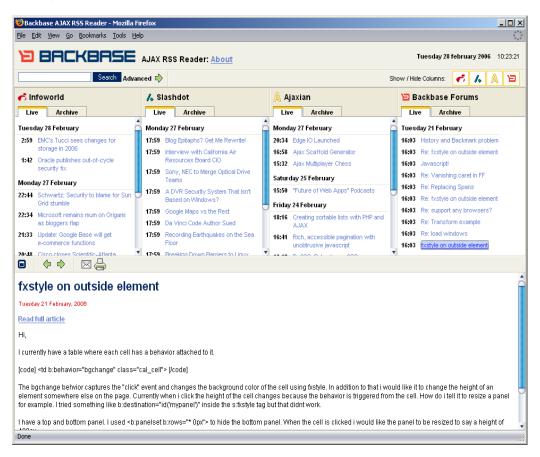


# The RSS Starter Kit

## 1. Introduction

The RSS Starter Kit describes how to install the RSS reader application built using BXML. The starter kit does not work out-of-the-box because server side technology is used that require installation and configuration. This document describes the installation process of the starter kit, but does not discuss functionality, or the go into the BXML code. For a functional overview of the RSS application, see the **Manual PDF** section 1.2.3 Example: RSS Reader. The following screenshot shows the RSS application: it has four columns for displaying RSS feeds that you can show or hide depending on your preferences. The panel that contains the article content can be undocked, resulting in a floating window with the article content.



## 2. Installation

## **System Requirements**

The Backbase AJAX RSS Reader requires the following:

- Any operating system (although Unix is preferred, because cron is used)
- PHP 4 or higher
- MySQL
- Backbase Community Edition 3.1.4

## 2.1 - Installing and Configuring PHP & MySQL

First make sure you have a working PHP and MySQL installation. For installation and configuration information, refer to the PHP and MySQL documentation.

#### 2.2 - Write Access

A cache folder will automatically be created (by server/update.php – see section 2.5) in order to store downloaded items from the RSS feeds, otherwise the RSS-feeds are re-downloaded *every* minute, unnecessarily wasting your and the web site's bandwidth which may result in a ban from certain sites. If the cache folder is not created, you may have to set write access to the directory (meaning that PHP is allowed to write files to that directory) of the starter kit in order to make it work.

## 2.3 - Creating and Configuring a Database

Create a MySQL database table using the following syntax:

```
CREATE TABLE `articles` (
  `article_id` int(11) NOT NULL auto_increment,
  `article_site_id` int(11) NOT NULL default '0',
  `article_title` varchar(128) collate utf8_unicode_ci NOT NULL default '',
  `article_description` text collate utf8_unicode_ci,
  `article_link` varchar(200) collate utf8_unicode_ci NOT NULL default '',
  `article_date` datetime NOT NULL default '0000-00-00 00:00:00',
  PRIMARY KEY (`article_id`),
  KEY `article_site_id` (`article_site_id`),
  KEY `article_date` (`article_date`)
) ENGINE=MyISAM DEFAULT CHARSET=utf8 COLLATE=utf8_unicode_ci;
```

### 2.4 - Configuring your Feeds

Edit the includes/config.inc.php file to enter your database settings; database hostname, username, and password.

Four default feeds are defined, and another four feeds added but commented out. If you want to add your own feeds, use these settings for configuration:

- \$i++;
- \$config['feeds'][\$i]['name'] the feeds title
- \$config['feeds'][\$i]['url'] the URL of the RSS feed
- \$config['feeds'][\$i]['allowHTML'] choose whether uou want HTML to be parsed, or to be transformed to plain text
- \$config['feeds'][\$i]['icon'] location of the icon

Note: Keep in mind that you must specify exactly four RSS Feeds - no more, no less.

## 2.5 - Setting up the RSS Feed

Create a scheduled job that copies new RSS items to the database. You can run this job on the server, or any other computer that has a permanent internet connection.

On Linux/Unix crontab: enter the following on a single line and replace {your server} with the URL of your server:

```
* * * * * /usr/local/bin/wget -qO - http://{your server}/RSS/server/update.php
```

This calls the update.php file every minute: this PHP file downloads only the new RSS-feeds (avoiding excessive load on the RSS feed).

On Window: use the Task Scheduler for the RSS update. If you don't have it already, you you will need to install wget for win32. For more information, see:

http://www.gnu.org/software/wget/wget.html.

## 2.6 - Testing the RSS Reader

After installation and configuration is complete, you can run the Backbase AJAX RSS Reader.