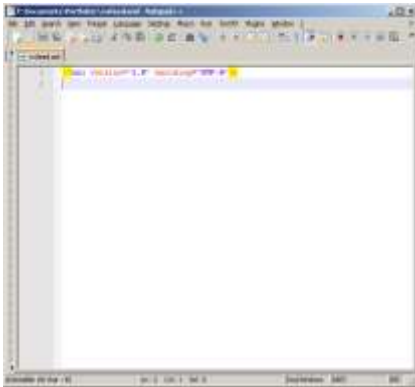


# Creating a RSS Feed

**Purpose:** With the growing number of spam bots on the internet and wanting your users to access information quicker, we use a technology called RSS (Really Simple Syndication). This allows user to see updated pages of your website without ever visiting your site. This is less time consuming than writing a newsletter for your website.

**Issues:** RSS is a technology Microsoft did not implement in their browser until Internet Explorer 7, If the browser does not understand RSS it will display a document structure of your code, needs to be added to feed search engines like Yahoo and Google, and style not customizable.



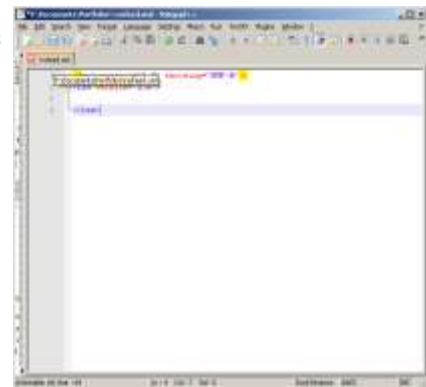
**Step 1:** Start with a blank XML (Extensible Markup Language) document. If you do not have a premade XML document type the code you see below and save it as rssfeed.xml. This is a declaration of a XML Document nothing is happening yet but this is the beginning of every xml document.

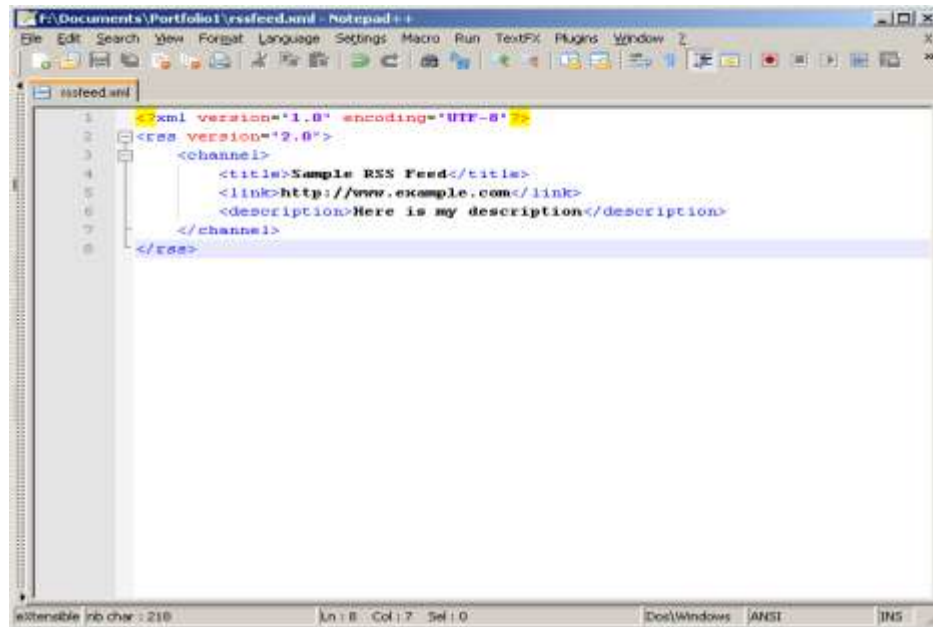
```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="utf-8" ?>
```

**Step 2:** Next you want to declare an RSS Feed with the following line of code. This lets your browser know that it is a RSS feed and not just a plain XML document. With XML you always have to close your tags as well. So in your text editor enter down two lines and add the second piece of code below

```
<rss version="2.0">
```

```
</rss>
```



A screenshot of a Notepad++ window showing an XML code snippet for an RSS feed. The code is as follows:

```
1 <?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
2 <rss version="2.0">
3   <channel>
4     <title>Sample RSS Feed</title>
5     <link>http://www.example.com/link</link>
6     <description>Here is my description</description>
7   </channel>
8 </rss>
```

The window title is "F:\Documents\Portfolio\rssfeed.xml - Notepad++". The status bar at the bottom shows "extensible nb char : 210", "Ln : 8 Col : 7 Sel : 0", and "Doc:Windows | ANSI | INS".

**Step 3:** Next we must declare a channel. This is the container in the RSS Feed that contains information about the feed and items within the feed. We do this with the code below.

**<channel>**

**</channel>**

Next we need to add the title, link, and description. The title is the Title of your RSS Feed, the link is your domain name or URL, and the description is a brief description of your feed. These go at the top and inside your channel container

**<title>Your Title Goes Here</title>**

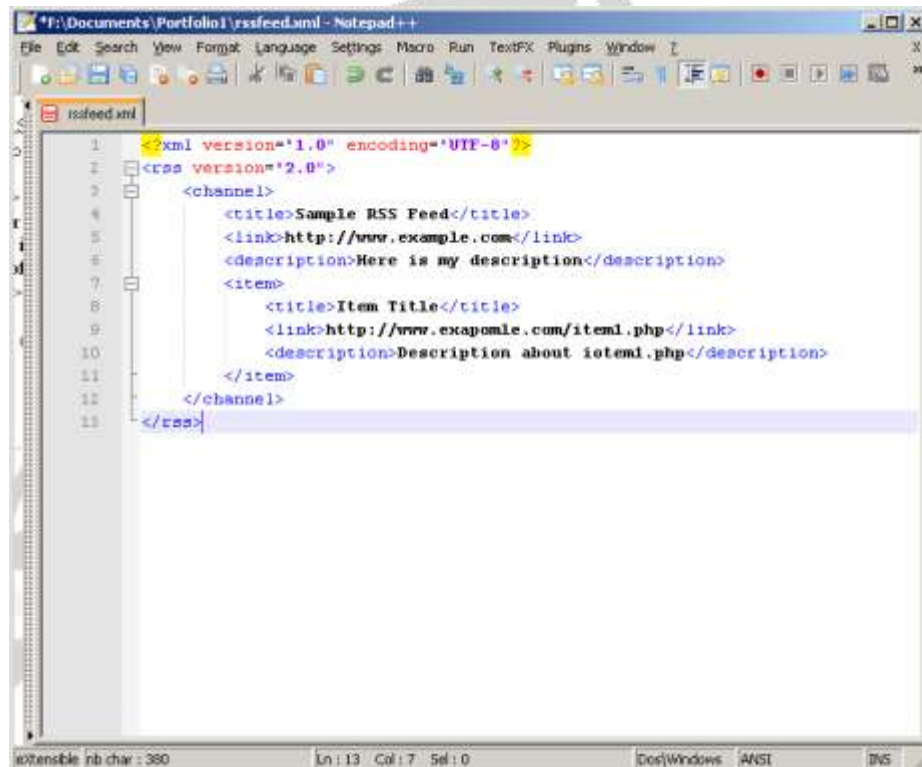
**<link>http://www.yourdomain.com</link>**

**<description>Your Description Goes Here</description>**

**Step 4:** Next we need to create an item which is a web page you want user who subscribe to your feed to know about whether it is new or just updated. You can have as many of these as you need and just add them then re upload your RSS file to the server and it will ping users about your updates. The code you need for item is below.

```
<item>
<title>Title of Your Item</title>
<link>URL of the item</link>
<description>Description of item</description>
</item>
```

These go below your feed description inside your channel tags. Are the new item that display when a user subscribes to your feed.



```
*F:\Documents\Portfolio\rssfeed.xml - Notepad++
File Edit Search View Format Language Settings Macro Run TextFX Plugins Window
rssfeed.xml
1 <?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8" ?>
2 <rss version="2.0">
3   <channel>
4     <title>Sample RSS Feed</title>
5     <link>http://www.example.com</link>
6     <description>Here is my description</description>
7     <item>
8       <title>Item Title</title>
9       <link>http://www.example.com/item1.php</link>
10      <description>Description about item1.php</description>
11    </item>
12  </channel>
13 </rss>
```

**Step 5:** Finally all you do is add a link to web pages with a normal link and a link it in the head of the webpage with the following code, it should be linked in the head of every page to increase visibility. The following code is the piece of code you place in your header.

```
<link href="rssfeed.xml" type="application/rss+xml" rel="alternate" title="Site  
RSS Feed" />
```

This will make a RSS logo appear in the address of Firefox and a button will appear on Internet Explorer 7 making the feed more visible, and allows user to bookmark and subscribe to the feed.

