



Google Reader Two weeks

Friday, October 21, 2005
posted by [Chris Wetherell](#)

First post! Everyone from the Google Reader team would like to say hello. (Say hello, everyone.)

(Everyone looks up while still typing.) "Hello, internet."

I'm lucky I got their attention - the last two weeks have been a whirlwind. Most products at Google see incredible attention whenever they're released and Reader followed this now familiar pattern:

1. Speculation
2. Deluge
3. Feature requests

Given that some servers survived their newfound celebrity and that all of the team members are still breathing (just checked again) I'm willing to call this a remarkable success. Especially for a Labs launch of this scope and for an *actual* beta-level project. I'd like a recap now - which is as much for my benefit as yours since we've been heads-down for a bit.

Bellweather, labs

A small Labs effort can be used to gauge the amount of interest in Google helping in some area. Since Reader accounts number in the hundreds of thousands in only our first two weeks of being out there it seems fair to say that there *is* some. Demonstrated need drives development - so we think we can go ahead with many of our plans which have included more interfaces (the *lens* is just one of several planned approaches), better ways of recommending new things to you and performance bolstering.

Big kitchen? Big table.

Every few seconds or so there's a bit more of everything on the internet. Feeds reliably so. Reader is using Google's BigTable in order to create a haven for what is likely to be a massive trove of items. BigTable is a system for storing and managing very large amounts of structured data and Jeff Dean just gave a [talk](#) about it at the University of Washington and Andrew Hitchcock was nice enough to make a [summary](#) for those interested in an overview.

With a little help from the internet

Like many geeks, we love people tweaking, twisting, pushing a technology to be more useful in the ways that suit them best. Here's some recent favorites:

- [How to use Google Reader](#), a Flash tutorial by [Andy Wibbeis](#)
- [Holizz' favelets list](#)
- [Godsmoon's bookmarklet](#)
- [Chris Nolan's Reader badges, buttons, and chicklets](#)

If you develop anything Reader-related [drop us a line](#). We'd be happy to post about it here. We're excited to be making Reader - most of us slept overnight at the office during launch week. It's been an amazing experience.

We're curious about one thing, though, and maybe the developers of other feed reader projects can tell us about their experience when testing their products...

How do you stop from being distracted by, well, *the whole internet*? It's an endless divertimento - I mean, seriously, it just keeps coming...

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A tip about Reader

! You can right-click on a label in the "Your subscriptions" drawer and open it in a new tab. This is handy for making a bookmark for a set of feeds.

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