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Google re-adds RSS support to the Chrome browser

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 Last updated on: May 20, 2021
 Google Chrome

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Soon Google Chrome will display RSS feeds on websites to make it easier to follow their updates. A new announcement on the official Chromium blog details that it is already available for some Canary users in the US running Chrome on Android.

RSS stands for RDF Site Summary or Really Simple Syndication. It is a web feed with a few computer-readable formats, most of popular of which is XML. RSS allows users and apps to access updates to websites in order to keep track of many different websites in a single view, provided by a feed reader. A feed reader is usually a standalone app, a web service, or even a feature of the browser or email client that periodically checks the given RSS feeds for new content. This content transfer is called web syndication. Websites usually use RSS feeds to publish frequently updated information, such as blog entries or news headlines.

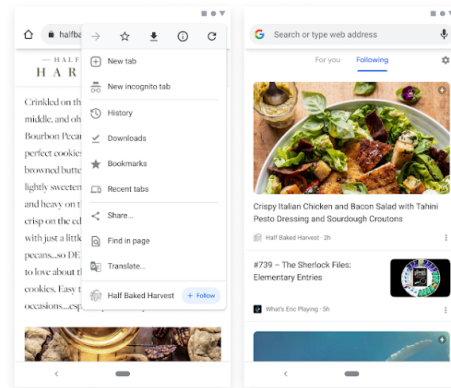
RSS reader in Google Chrome

Chrome had no built-in RSS reader for long. This has finally changed.

Dubbed as "experimental Follow feature", the RSS reader feature is already available for some Chrome Canary for Android users in the US. The [official announcement](#) says the following:

In the coming weeks, some Android users in the US on Chrome Canary may see an experimental Follow feature designed to help people get the latest content from sites they follow," the Chromium Blog revealed today. "Our goal for this feature is to allow people to follow the websites they care about, from the large publishers to the small neighborhood blogs, by tapping a Follow button in Chrome. When websites publish content, users can see updates from sites they have followed in a new Following section on the New Tab page.

Here's how it looks.



In the current experimental implementation on Android, Chrome includes an extra command in the menu. The last menu item is the "follow" option which adds the current site's feed to the list of the RSS subscriptions. It is interesting that Chrome does not name it "RSS", so it can be obvious to the user that he is dealing with an RSS feed.

A new "Following" tab hosts all your RSS feeds and updates, visible on the New Tab page. It only shows the feed item title, source, time of publication, and a thumbnail image of the feed entry. At a glance, there are no options to export and import feeds or other management tools.

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Also, the announcement doesn't mention if Chrome will receive something similar in the desktop version of the browser. If this happens, then there is a high chance that Microsoft Edge will eventually receive the same, as both browsers share the underlying Chromium project. In my opinion, RSS is the best option to track website updates, so it could be a great addition to both browsers.

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