

WordPress on AutoPilot – Automatic Posting Google Reader to WordPress

Why use Google Reader with WordPress?

Google Reader aggregates RSS feeds and allows you to read them from any browser. This makes it easy to keep up on your content anywhere, anytime.

I have used Google Reader all over the world and have been able to post to my site as well as keep up with what is going on.

It is great!

Want to make it even better? Then post your finds back to your WordPress site automatically and put your site on AutoPilot.

Here is how.

What do you get?

As you read the content from Google Reader you can “tag” articles. This assigns an identifier for that content. Then you can use this identifier to create an RSS feed. The RSS feed allows you to post content back to your WordPress site.

It only takes a few minutes to set this up and then you have fresh content posted to your sites that will super-glue your readers to your postings.

3 Steps to Automatically Adding Google Reader Feeds to WordPress

1. Tag Feeds in Google Reader
2. Make the Feed Public
3. Add RSS Feed to WordPress (Widget or direct Post)



Figure 1 - Tag Generated RSS Widget

Tag Your It! - Tagging Feeds in Google Reader

As you read through your RSS feeds press “t” to open the tags window, Figure 2. Then type in the tag you want for the category to post on your blog. For example, I use the tag “blog-writing” for posts that are related to how to writing articles for your blog. Then I send the RSS feed to my WordPress site.

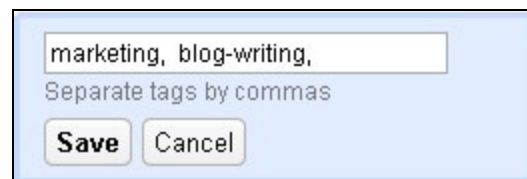


Figure 2 - RSS Feed Tagging

I Want My RSS! - Getting the RSS Feed out of Google Reader

Setting up Tags as RSS Feeds

You need to make the tags public so Google will generate an RSS feed for the tags. At this time Google does not support tags for private feeds.



Figure 3 - Google Reader Settings

In Google Reader select Settings to open up the RSS configurations, Figure 3.

Select Tags, Figure 4, and select the tag and change it to Public. This will generate the RSS feed for the tag.



Figure 4 - Google Reader Public Feed

Click on “View Public Page”, Figure 5, to see all the articles that you have tagged with that specific tag. On the right side of the page is an RSS feed labeled “a feed”, Figure 6, with an RSS icon by it.



Figure 5 - Google Reader View Public Page or Add a Clip to Your Site

Click on this link to display the RSS feed, Figure 7, for this page. This is the feed that you will copy into your WordPress RSS Feed Reader (ie FeedWordPress or WP-o-Matic).

Adding RSS Feed to WordPress

You have 2 options for adding content to WordPress. You can display the content in an RSS widget or post the content to your Blog or CMS.

Creating the RSS Widget

Create a RSS Widget in WordPress (Presentation, Widgets) and insert the feed in the widget so it will update automatically.

Customize Widget Look

I use the “None” setting for formatting the clip when adding it to WordPress themes. This way the formatting from the clip doesn’t interfere with the theme. Experiment and see what works for you.



Figure 6 - View Public Page - RSS Feed

Embedding in Posts

You can also store the RSS feeds into Posts in WordPress if you want to keep this information in your Blog, Content Management System, or Static Web Site.

To do this install an RSS WordPress posting program to import your RSS feeds into WordPress. I like FeedWordPress and WP-o-Matic to import feeds and convert them into posts.

Once you have installed the plug-in then add the RSS Google Reader tag feed, Figure 7, to your plug-in and it will post the new tags into WordPress. You can use WP-CRON to automate the import process so every time you add new tags they will be automatically imported into WordPress as new Posts.

I use FeedWordPress and import the RSS feed into blog as “draft” posts so I can make any changes I want before making the content available on my site.

The other alternative is to direct post the content. This is a quicker process and populates the site in less time.



Figure 7 - RSS Feed

All Done!

Author Bio

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