

Installing Tiny Tiny RSS & Using It With iOS Devices

Starting To Use RSS Just As Google Reader Closes!

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for the
Columbia Area Linux User's Groups*

Introduction

- *What is Tiny Tiny RSS (TT-RSS)?*
- *Setting up TT-RSS*
 - *Setting up the host, the database and installing TT-RSS*
- *Updating TT-RSS*
- *Browsing from a desktop computer*
- *Browsing From iOS*

Tiny Tiny RSS

- “Tiny Tiny RSS is an open source web-based news feed (RSS/Atom) reader and aggregator, designed to allow you to read news from any location, while feeling as close to a real desktop application as possible.”

<http://tt-rss.org>

Why Use RSS & TT-RSS?

- *Keep up with a set of regularly read blogs*
 - *Instead of spending coffee time looking for changes, get the changes to come to you at coffee time!*
- *Keep reading in sync across a variety of platforms*

My Decisions

- *Host internally on home network or host externally on the Internet?*
 - *Decision: Host externally on Internet*
 - *Why: Accessible at home and on the road*
 - *No need to open ports into home network*

TT-RSS Requirements

- *TT-RSS requires:*
 - *LAMP Stack or compatible*
 - *PHP 5.3+*
 - *Database - MySQL or Postgres*

Chosen Set Up For TT-RSS

- *Dreamhost shared hosting environment*
 - *Debian Linux LAMP Stack*
 - *PHP5.3*
 - *MySql*

Setting Up Host Environment

- *Using the Dreamhost panel:*
 - *Created a new user, tt-rss-host-user*
 - *Created a subdomain, rss.example.com*

[Setup passwordless SSH access to user account]
 - *Created a MySQL database ttrss_database on host mysql.rss.example.com*

Installing Tiny Tiny RSS

- Downloaded **Tiny-Tiny-RSS-1.7.5.tar** from <http://tt-rss.org/redmine/projects/tt-rss/wiki> on to my local machine
- *scp* file to ~/ on remote host
- Uncompressed tar and moved files into web root

```
$ tar xvf Tiny-Tiny-RSS-1.7.5.tar
$ mv Tiny-Tiny-RSS-1.7.5/* rss.example.com/
```
- setup the MySQL database schema

```
$ cd ~/rss.example.com/schema/
$ mysql -u example_db_user -p -h mysql.rss.example.com ttrss_database\
< ttrss_schema_mysql.sql
```

Installing Tiny Tiny RSS, continued

- Created the PHP configuration file by copying, renaming and editing the default

```
$ cp config.php-dist config.php
```

```
$ vi config.php
```

- Set parameters:

```
define( 'DB_TYPE' , "mysql" ); // or mysql
define( 'DB_HOST' , "mysql.rss.example.com" );
define( 'DB_USER' , "example_db_user" );
define( 'DB_NAME' , "ttrssdb" );
define( 'DB_PASS' , "strongpassword" );
...
define( 'SELF_URL_PATH' , 'http://rss.example.com/' );
...
define( "SIMPLE_UPDATE_MODE" , true);
```

On a shared host if you cannot get access to cron then set **SIMPLE_UPDATE_MODE** to **true** to refresh RSS feeds when you login into the site

Installing Tiny Tiny RSS, continued

- *Browse to <http://rss.example.com>, login as user admin*
- *Change user admin's password from "password"!*

- *At this stage you can create a user account with lower privileges for day-to-day viewing of RSS feeds*

- *TT-RSS can also use Google Authenticator & One Time Passwords to provide two factor authentication to the user's account*

Updating TT-RSS Installation

- *The Tiny Tiny RSS: New Releases feed is visible by default on all TT-RSS feed accounts*
- *There are a number of ways to update*
 - *Enabling the Updater plugin and using the browser worked for me*
- *In **config.php** include updater in the list of plugins*

```
define('PLUGINS', 'auth_remote, auth_internal,  
digest, mobile, updater, note');
```

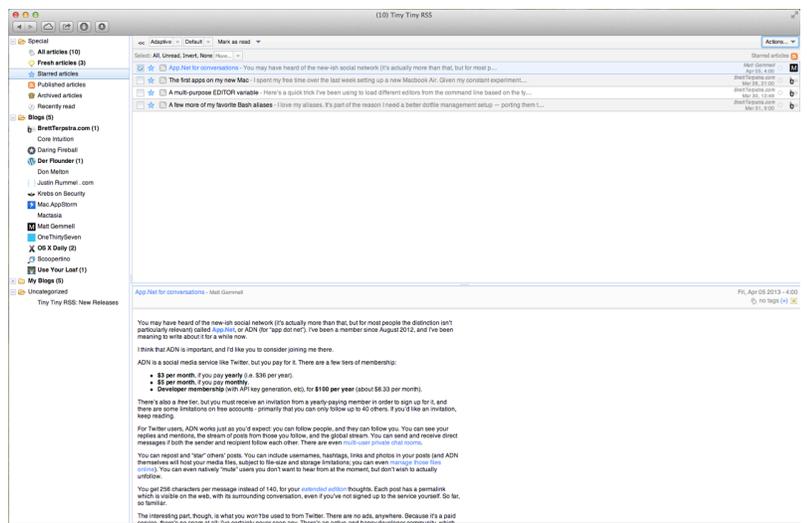
Updating TT-RSS Installation, continued

- *Back up directory `~/rss.example.com`*
- *Log into `http://rss.example.com` as admin using browser*
- *Click update in the preferences menu and start update*
- *Once update complete, log back in and start database update, if prompted*

- *Going from v1.7.5 to 1.7.8:*
 - *Preferences slightly different*
 - *Feeds where all articles are read are hidden*

Browsing The RSS Feed Content

- *TT-RSS will work with any modern browser*
- *It has an official Android client*

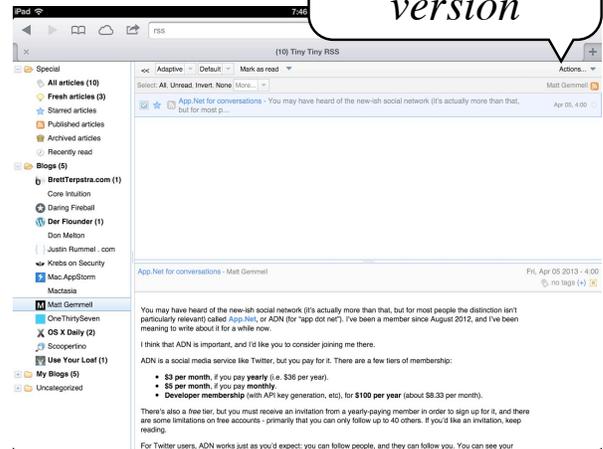


Browsing With iPad

click Regular
version

- *In config.php include digest in the list of plugins*

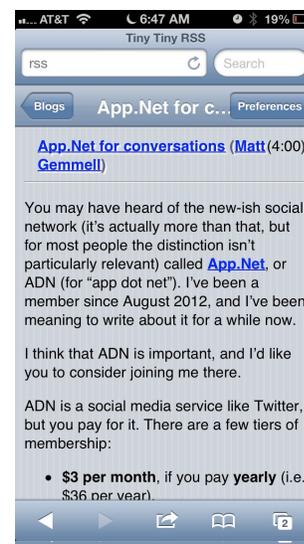
```
define('PLUGINS',  
'auth_remote, auth_internal,  
digest, mobile, updater,  
note');
```



Browsing With iPhone

- *In config.php include mobile in the list of plugins*

```
define('PLUGINS',  
'auth_remote, auth_internal,  
digest, mobile, updater,  
note');
```



Other TT-RSS Features

- *Plugins for sharing to Twitter / Facebook / Google+ and others*
- *Theme-able*
- *Aggregation & sharing of articles via rss feed, email*
- *Add notes and tags to rss articles*
- *The latest, bleeding edge version is available from github (<https://github.com/gothfox/Tiny-Tiny-RSS>)*
- *Active forums & Google+ group exist*

Summary

- *Tiny Tiny RSS allows me to:*
 - *Keep up with a set of regularly read blogs*
 - *Keep in sync across a variety of platforms*
- *Provides straight forward setup in a Debian LAMP shared hosting environment*
- *Provides two-factor authentication*

Links

- *TT-RSS Wiki*
 - <http://tt-rss.org/redmine/projects/tt-rss/wiki>
- *Lifehacker article on setting up TT-RSS*
 - <http://lifehacker.com/5992404/how-to-build-your-own-syncing-rss-reader-with-tiny-tiny-rss-and-kick-google-reader-to-the-curb>