

News Tool

At the end of this tutorial, you will be able to answer the following questions:

What is the News tool? 1

Note:

- The terms **Instructor**, **Maintainer**, and **Owner** refer to the same role in Coursar. They are used interchangeably in this document.
- The terms **Student**, **Participant**, and **Member** refer to the same role in Coursar. They are used interchangeably in this document.
- **Course & Project** sites both refer to a **worksite** or a **site** in Coursar's terminology. They are used interchangeably in this document. Anything that is used in a Course site can be used in a Project site, and vice versa.

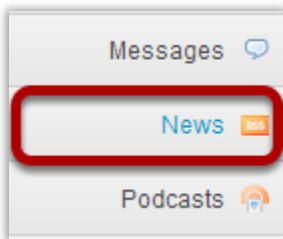
What is the News tool?

The News tool uses RSS to bring dynamic news to your site. RSS is a data format used to syndicate news on the web. It allows continuously updated content from a remote news site to appear in another web site.

To set up your site to display news, the instructor or site owner must specify a URL pointing to an RSS news feed. An RSS news feed is a specially formatted list of news articles. You can find RSS feeds by using an Internet search engine (e.g., Google or Yahoo). Sites that distribute news in RSS format are called "news feeds". The News tool is an RSS "news aggregator" (or news reader) that reads and displays content from RSS news feeds. You can usually identify an RSS feed by the .xml or .rss in the URL (e.g., <http://www.nytimes.com/services/xml/rss/nyt/Movies.xml> or http://rss.cnn.com/rss/cnn_topstories.rss).

In addition to news, some web sites use the RSS format for information that is updated often, such as blogs, events listings, or the revision history of a book. Site owners can add more than one News feed either when setting up the site or at a later time via **Edit Tools** in **Site Info**.

To access this tool, select the News item from the Tool Menu of your site.



Note: Depending on how the news feed is named in your site, the title may appear differently in your Tool Menu list.