

News Tool

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

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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?

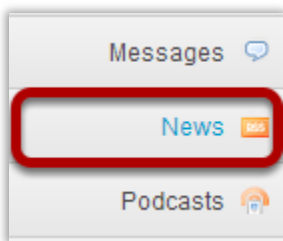
The News tool uses RSS to bring dynamic news to your site. RSS is a data format used to syndicate news on the web. It allows continuously updated content from a remote news site to appear in another web site.

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.



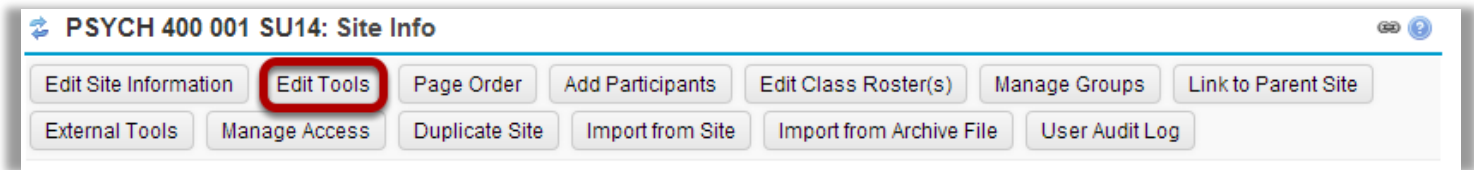
Note: Depending on how the news feed is named in your site, the title may appear differently in your Tool Menu list.

How do I add a News tool?

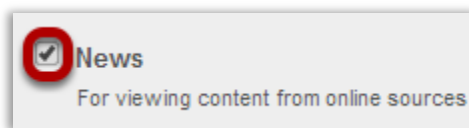
Go to Site Info.

Select the **Site Info** tool from the Tool Menu of your site.

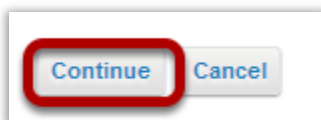
Click Edit Tools.



Select the check box next to News.



Click Continue.



Enter the News item information and save.

PSYCH 400 001 SU14: Site Info

Customize tool instances
Please enter the information for external tools
Add multiple tool instances or configure tool options. You can also make configuration adjustments later in the site using the Options menu for each tool instance.

News

Title (Suggested length 15 char.)

URL Channel

More News Tools? ▾

1. Enter a tool title. (The tool title will display in the Tool Menu of your site.)
2. Enter the URL of your RSS feed.
3. Optionally, if you want to add more than one news feed at a time, you can select to add additional items from the “**More News Tools?**” drop-down menu.
4. Click **Continue** to save your settings.

Click Finish to complete the site tools edit.

How do I edit the News tool?

Go to News.

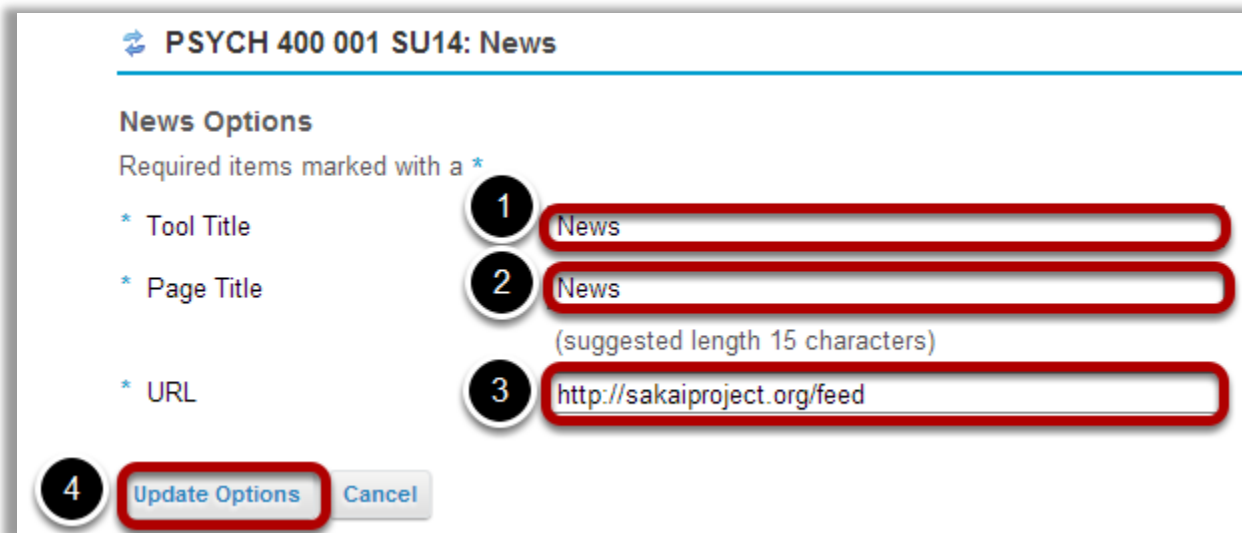
Select the **News** item from the Tool Menu of your site.

(If a News item is not already active in the site, you will need to go to **Site Info > Edit Tools** to add it to your site first.)

Click Options.



Enter the News item information and save.


 A screenshot of the "News Options" form for the tool "PSYCH 400 001 SU14: News". The form includes three required input fields, each marked with an asterisk and a numbered circle:

- 1. Tool Title: Input field containing "News".
- 2. Page Title: Input field containing "News". Below this field is the text "(suggested length 15 characters)".
- 3. URL: Input field containing "http://sakaiproject.org/feed".

 At the bottom left, there is a button labeled "Update Options" (numbered 4) and a "Cancel" button.

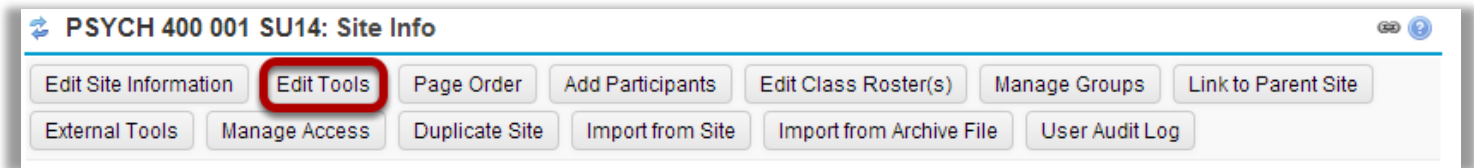
1. Enter a tool title.
2. Enter a page title for the tool. (The page title is the title that will display in the Tool Menu of your site.)
3. Enter the URL of your RSS feed.
4. Click **Update Options** to save your settings.

How do I delete a News tool?

Go to Site Info.

Select the **Site Info** tool from the Tool Menu of your site.

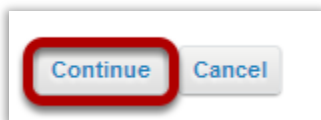
Click **Edit Tools**.



De-select the box (i.e. remove check) next to the News tool you want to remove.



Click **Continue**.



Click **Finish** to complete the tool removal.

