

## Blogs: The Basics & Beyond | Glossary

**Aggregator:** There are two main types of aggregators: web-based aggregators and desktop/software aggregators. Web-based aggregators allow individuals to subscribe to feeds online and read feeds in a web browser. Desktop aggregators are software programs installed locally that updates when feeds are updated. The aggregator shows new information and allows users to read feeds.

**Archives:** A collection of all of a blog's posts on one page. Often categorized by month and displayed on a sidebar.

**Atom:** An XML-based file format. Although Atom is not the same as RSS, it has similar functions.

**Blog:** Short for "web log". A public website with posts or entries ordered, most often, with the most recent first. Posts may come from one or more individuals and the messages often share a common theme. In most blogs, the most recent entries posted are made available for syndication via RSS feeds. Archives are also a common feature.

**Blogging:** The act of creating and posting on blogs.

**Blogosphere:** The totality of weblogs or blog-related websites. Used to describe the world or community of blogs and blogging. Blogs are densely interconnected with bloggers reading, linking to, referencing, and posting comments on other blogs. As a result, the interconnected blogs have grown their own culture.

**Blogroll:** A list of recommended links in the sidebar of a blog, often linking to other blogs.

**Comments:** Enables readers to leave their remarks on a blog entry.

**Dashboard:** When you login to your blogging account, it is the page with controls, tools, settings, and functions.

**Entries or Posts:** Individual articles that make up a blog.

**Feeds:** RSS/XML documents containing headlines and descriptions used for web syndication. Also called a channel, news feed, content feed, xml feed, rss feed, or web feed.

**Permalink:** A link to a specific blog entry or post

**Podcasting:** Audio content is delivered via an RSS feed presenting a downloadable or streaming file (often mp3).

**Readers:** An application that reads many RSS feeds on behalf of one or more RSS subscribers. Most RSS readers are also RSS aggregators, but with a few exceptions. Firefox reads RSS files, but does nothing more than compile the items in a menu tree. Therefore, it is an RSS reader, but not an RSS aggregator.

**RSS or "Really Simple Syndication":** A format for delivering regularly changing web content. Many news-related sites, personal blogs, and other websites syndicate content as an RSS feed to the public.

**Sidebar:** One or more columns along one or both sides of a typical blog's main page. Often contains a list of links (blogroll), recent posts and comments, archives, and tags or categories.

**Tags:** Labels or keywords used to collect similar posts

**Trackback:** A system by which a ping is sent to another blog to notify that their article has been mentioned.

**XML or eXtensible Markup Language:** RSS is based on XML, which is simply a programming language.