

Faculty Computing FAQ – Live (RSS) Bookmarks

The links you see in a Firefox “live bookmark” come from an RSS feed provided by a website. These links change as the content on the website changes, so they are always up to date. Firefox will recognise when a website provides a convenient way of adding the RSS feed to your bookmarks, and in the bottom right hand corner of the window it will show a small orange icon (for some reason, anything to do with RSS has to be bright orange):



BBC News is one example. If you click the icon, you can select “Subscribe to ‘rss’ ...” and follow the prompts to create a live bookmark. To place the bookmark in the toolbar at the top of every Firefox window, select “Bookmarks Toolbar Folder” from the drop down menu labelled “Create in”.

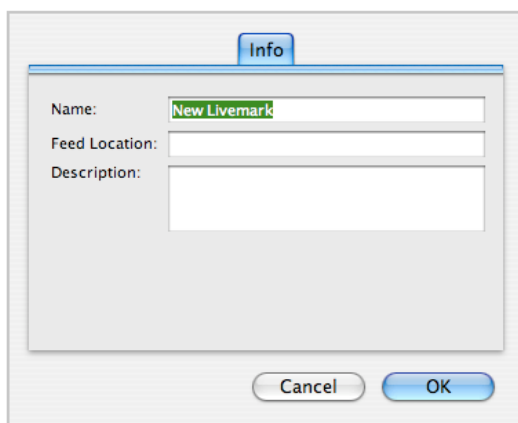
Other websites provide an RSS feed, but are not so Firefox friendly. For example, <http://www.geo.tv/> has an RSS icon on the front page (orange, of course):



Click the icon, and you will be taken to a page which lists all the RSS feeds for that website. Choose the one you want, click on its RSS icon while holding down the control key, and select “Copy Link Location”. Alternatively, just click the RSS icon and copy the address of the page you are taken to, which might be http://geo.tv/data/rss/geo_pakistan.xml for example.

The Firefox menu at the top of your screen has a “Bookmarks” item. Choose “Bookmarks > Manage Bookmarks...” and the Bookmarks window opens. Notice how the menu at the top of your screen has changed, and now choose “File > New Livemark...”

A small dialog box opens at the top of the Bookmarks window:



Give the live bookmark a short descriptive name, click in the field labelled “Feed Location” and paste the URL we copied earlier - http://geo.tv/data/rss/geo_pakistan.xml for example. Finally, in the “Description” field, you may want to add more informative notes for future reference, then press OK.

The live bookmark RSS feed will listed with all your other bookmarks. If you want to move it to a sub-folder, such as the “Bookmarks Toolbar Folder”, then select the bookmark from the list on the right, click the “Move” icon at the top of the window, and select where you want it placed.