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You are here: [dive into mark](#) → [Archives](#) → [February 2004](#) → [4](#) → **The myth of RSS compatibility**

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## [The myth of RSS compatibility](#)

I have often stated ([1](#), [2](#), [3](#)) that there are 7 different and incompatible versions of RSS. This was based on an embarrassingly simple formula: I counted the version numbers in use (0.90, 0.91, 0.92, 0.93, 0.94, 1.0, and 2.0) and came up with the number “7”. But recently some people have taken to claiming that there are not 7 versions (despite obvious evidence to the contrary), and even if there are, that they are somehow “compatible” with each other so it doesn’t really matter. So I dug a little further to precisely document the incompatible changes in each version of RSS.

I would like to publicly apologize for my previous misstatements. There are not 7 different and incompatible versions of RSS; there are 9.

In March of 1999, Netscape released [RSS 0.90](#). RSS 0.90 looks like this:

### **Example 1. [RSS 0.90](#)**

```
<rdf:RDF
xmlns:rdf="http://www.w3.org/1999/02/22-rdf-syntax-ns#"
xmlns="http://my.netscape.com/rdf/simple/0.9/">
<channel>
<title>Mozilla Dot Org</title>
<link>http://www.mozilla.org</link>
<description>the Mozilla Organization web site</description>
</channel>
<image>
<title>Mozilla</title>
<url>http://www.mozilla.org/images/logo.gif</url>
<link>http://www.mozilla.org</link>
</image>
<item>
<title>New Status Updates</title>
<link>http://www.mozilla.org/status/</link>
</item>
</rdf:RDF>
```

In July of 1999, Netscape released [RSS 0.91](#). Netscape’s RSS 0.91 was intentionally incompatible with RSS 0.90. They dropped the RDF-compatible syntax and redesigned RSS to be pure XML. They also added a DTD which defined several allowable entities (more on these below).

Netscape’s RSS 0.91 looks like this: