

Xplrss

A minimalistic RSS reader

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Description

What I wanted in a RSS reader was a lightweight, portable, cross-platform compatible RSS reader. There was no RSS reader available that did everything the way I wanted it to. Using a self-built XML parser and Swing I managed to make everything happen to the best of my ability.

This was a difficult project and it took me all day every single day for the last few weeks to code, and it was a lot of late nights. But it was amazingly fun, and I'm really happy with the result.

The program starts with a very empty user interface with a single category in the left area labeled 'Feeds'. This category needs to be selected to be able to add categories and feeds into the tree.

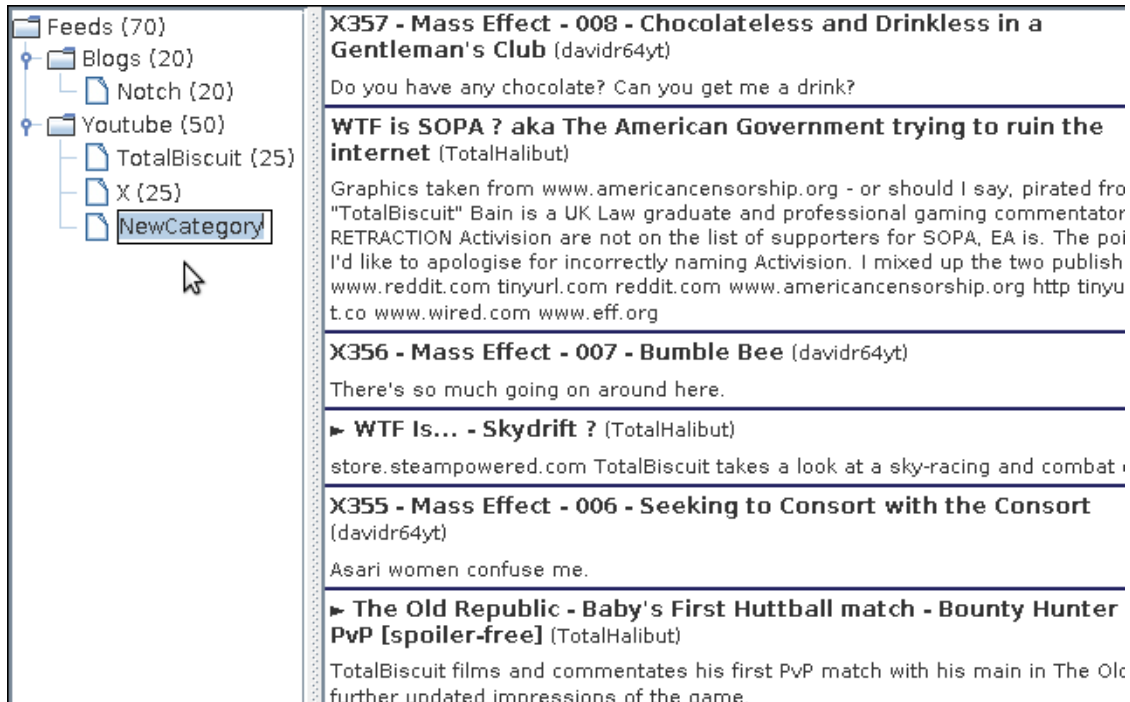
Main class is called Reader.

Controls

- Select a tree-node and click Insert to add a Feed or Category
- Select a tree-node and click Delete to remove a Feed or Category
- Left-clicking a category will draw a list of all entries in the feed under that category
- Left-clicking a feed will draw a list of its entries in the main area to the right
- Left-clicking an entry will mark it as read and select it
- Left-clicking a selected entry will open the article

Features

- Updates feeds once every minute
- Entries that were updated in the online feed will overwrite the local entry
- Caches all the information to the harddrive
- Clears out html code in entries
- Renaming of feeds and categories by clicking a selected node
(Note: Remove the unread count when renaming)



The screenshot shows the application's user interface. On the left is a tree view of feeds and categories. The 'Feeds' folder contains 'Blogs (20)', 'Youtube (50)', and 'NewCategory'. 'Blogs' contains 'Notch (20)' and 'TotalBiscuit (25)'. 'Youtube' contains 'X (25)'. A mouse cursor is hovering over 'NewCategory'. On the right is a list of feed entries. The first entry is 'X357 - Mass Effect - 008 - Chocolateless and Drinkless in a Gentleman's Club (davidr64yt)' with the text 'Do you have any chocolate? Can you get me a drink?'. The second entry is 'WTF is SOPA ? aka The American Government trying to ruin the internet (TotalHalibut)' with a paragraph of text. The third entry is 'X356 - Mass Effect - 007 - Bumble Bee (davidr64yt)' with the text 'There's so much going on around here.'. The fourth entry is 'WTF Is... - Skydrift ? (TotalHalibut)' with the text 'store.steampowered.com TotalBiscuit takes a look at a sky-racing and combat'. The fifth entry is 'X355 - Mass Effect - 006 - Seeking to Consort with the Consort (davidr64yt)' with the text 'Asari women confuse me.'. The sixth entry is 'The Old Republic - Baby's First Huttball match - Bounty Hunter PvP [spoiler-free] (TotalHalibut)' with the text 'TotalBiscuit films and commentates his first PvP match with his main in The Old Republic further updated impressions of the game.'

- Reorganizing feeds in the tree using drag and drop



The screenshot shows the application's user interface after reorganizing feeds. On the left is a tree view of feeds and categories. The 'Feeds' folder contains 'Blogs (20)', 'Youtube (40)', and 'Let's players (15)'. 'Blogs' contains 'Notch (20)' and 'TotalBiscuit (25)'. 'Youtube' contains 'X (15)'. A mouse cursor is hovering over 'X (15)'. On the right is a list of feed entries. The first entry is 'X357 - Mass Effect - 008 - Chocolateless and Drinkless in a Gentleman's Club (davidr64yt)' with the text 'Do you have any chocolate? Can you get me a drink?'. The second entry is 'X356 - Mass Effect - 007 - Bumble Bee (davidr64yt)'. The third entry is 'X355 - Mass Effect - 006 - Seeking to Consort with the Consort (davidr64yt)'. The fourth entry is 'X354 - Mass Effect - 005 - Exploring the Citadel (davidr64yt)'. The fifth entry is 'X353 - Mass Effect - 004 - Visions of a World Without Tea (davidr64yt)'. The sixth entry is 'X352 - Mass Effect - 003 - Moving (davidr64yt)'. The seventh entry is 'X351 - Mass Effect - 002 - I'm a Sucker for a Girl in Pink (davidr64yt)'. The eighth entry is 'X350 - Mass Effect - 001 - Awesome Ship (davidr64yt)'. The ninth entry is 'X349 - Thanksgiving Special (One Day Late) - Ten Games, Three Minute'. The tenth entry is 'X348 - Road, Sword, and Bow - The Call of the Tea Bandit - 001 - Who C'. The eleventh entry is 'X347 - Wings of Liberty - 011 - Just Like Old Times (davidr64yt)' with the text 'When Matt Horner finds a viable target for some much-needed profit, Jimmy & we rob some Dominion trains.'. The twelfth entry is 'X346 - Wings of Liberty - 010 - Remember When (davidr64yt)' with the text 'Zeratul, with no small degree of urgency, has thrust upon us the responsibility'. The thirteenth entry is 'X345 - Wings of Liberty - 009 - The Third Artifact (davidr64yt)' with the text 'We quickly discover what eradicated the old Moebius Foundation's specialist team equipped for the task at hand: seizing the third Yell'Naga Artifact'.

- Using categories to view several feeds at once

Features I planned to add

Ideas that were scrapped due to lack of time.

- Rendering HTML in entries
- Settings to control the program features and feed properties
- Visual feedback for when feeds are updating
- More controls, such as:
 - Unread entry
 - Minimize/Maximize entries
 - Read/Unread feed and category
 - Force reload feed and category