

# Backend.UserLand.Com

*How to hook into UserLand.Com through XML, XML-RPC and SOAP.*

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## RSS 0.92

**New version available, October 2002** ↩

[RSS 2.0](#) is the current version. It is upward compatible with 0.92, that is any 0.92 source is also a valid 2.0 source.

**Philosophy** ↩

RSS is a Web content syndication format.

**How 0.92 relates to 0.91** ↩

RSS 0.92 is upward-compatible with [RSS 0.91](#).

Every new feature of 0.92 is optional, meaning that a 0.91 file is also a valid 0.92 file.

**Example** ↩

Here is a [RSS 0.92 file](#) that illustrates many of the features described on this page.

**<language> is optional** ↩

In 0.91, the <language> element is required. In 0.92 it is optional.

Why? If a channel is formed from various input sources there's no way to know that it's going to only contain a single language.

**All sub-elements of <item> are optional** ↩

In 0.91, <link> and <title> are required sub-elements of <item> and <description> is optional.

In 0.92, all sub-elements of <item> are optional.

Why? When a RSS file reflects the content of a weblog or "blog" site, the structure required by previous versions of RSS was often impossible to synthesize. For example, there is no actual limit on the number of links a weblog item can have.

Further, 0.92 allows entity-encoded HTML in the <description> of an item, to reflect actual practice by bloggers, who are often proficient HTML coders.

#### **<source> sub-element of <item>** ↴

<source> is a new optional sub-element of <item>.

Its value is the name of the RSS channel that the item came from, derived from its <title>. It has one required attribute, url, which links to the XMLization of the source.

```
<source url="http://www.myapplemenu.com/cgi-bin/surfView.cgi?
category=applesurf&mainfull=1000&fmt=scripting&template=scripting">AppleSurf</source>
```

The purpose of this element is to propagate credit for links, to publicize the sources of news items.

#### **<enclosure> sub-element of <item>** ↴

<enclosure> is a new optional sub-element of <item>.

It has three required attributes. url says where the enclosure is located, length says how big it is in bytes, and type says what its type is, a standard MIME type.

The url must be an http url.

```
<enclosure url="http://www.scripting.com/mp3s/weatherReportSuite.mp3"
length="12216320" type="audio/mpeg" />
```

A use-case narrative for this element is [here](#)

#### **<category> sub-element of <item>** ↴

<category> is a new optional sub-element of <item>.

It has one optional attribute, domain, a string that identifies a categorization taxonomy.

The value of the element is a forward-slash-separated string that identifies a hierarchic location in the indicated taxonomy. Processors may establish conventions for the interpretation of categories. Two

examples are provided below:

```
<category  
domain="http://www.superopendirectory.com/">standards/xsl/implementations</category>  
  
<category domain="http://www.fool.com/cusips">MSFT</category>
```

### **<cloud> sub-element of <channel>** ↩

<cloud> is a new optional sub-element of <channel>. It specifies a Web service that supports the rssCloud interface which can be implemented in HTTP-POST, XML-RPC or SOAP 1.1.

Its purpose is to allow processes to register with a cloud to be notified of updates to the channel.

```
<cloud domain="data.ourfavoritesongs.com" port="80" path="/RPC2"  
registerProcedure="ourFavoriteSongs.rssPleaseNotify" protocol="xml-rpc"/>
```

A full explanation of this element and the rssCloud interface is [here](#).

### **All limits are eliminated** ↩

In RSS 0.91 various elements are restricted to 500 or 100 characters. There can be no more than 15 <items> in a 0.91 <channel>.

There are no string-length or XML-level limits in RSS 0.92.

Processors may impose their own limits, and generators may have preferences that say no more than a certain number of <item>s can appear in a channel, or that strings are limited in length.



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Last update: Sunday, August 24, 2003 at 6:27:17 PM Pacific.

