Features:

The main table:

Each article is listed with source, title w/ link to article, date & time when published, and options to “favorite” the article, hide the article, and open a description by clicking on the arrow. Currently, the articles are being sorted by published time – this will be adjusted when the clustering algorithm is implemented.

Known bugs

* The published time is not necessarily correct because most sites do not base their time off EST

The Search widget:

Search is intended to be intuitive while also offering more powerful options. You can simply type a phrase into the search box and hit enter – it will search for that exact phrase in the title of all articles. If you click advanced, it will show that this is the default setting.

In the “Search Fields” section, you can also decide to search in the description of the article or, in the future, “data”, which will be the body of the article once we implement the ability to grab an article off a page. For now, clicking “data” will do nothing. These 3 options are related by searching for the phrase entered by the user in ANY of the selected boxes – it is not necessary that the phrase appear in all of the boxes.

In the “Restrict by Fields” section, you can narrow your search by finding ONLY favorite or hidden articles. Unlike the first section, it is required that these be true.

Clicking on “Restrict by Sources” will open a list of all current sources, and gives the ability to narrow your search to specific ones. This will default to searching all sources.

“Date range” can be selected by clicking on the calendar icon at the right of each box. It will search in the subset of articles up to, but not including, the given date.

Known bugs: None

The View widget:

This gives 4 options –the normal view, list of all articles, favorite articles, or hidden articles. Additionally, there is a link to “update articles” which will download all new articles from the feeds in your list. This is only temporary because the ultimate plan is to have this happen automatically. Also, it takes awhile (usually 20-30 seconds), so sometimes the request will time out (since Heroku is hosting for free, after all).

Known bugs: If a feed is unavailable when you click on “update articles”, it will generate an error

The Feeds Widget:

The app is online at <http://news-aggregator.heroku.com/rss_entries>. Please give any feedback on this. This version is about a week old, but here are the features for this version:

**The main table:**

Each article is listed with source, title w/ link to article, date & time when published, and options to “favorite” the article (the star), hide the article, and open a description by clicking on the arrow. Currently, the articles are being sorted by published time – this will be adjusted when the clustering algorithm is implemented.

Known bugs: The published time is not necessarily correct because most sites do not base their time off EST

**The Search widget:**

Search is intended to be intuitive while also offering more powerful options. You can simply type a phrase into the search box and hit enter – it will search for that exact phrase in the title of all articles. If you click advanced, it will show that this is the default setting.

In the “Search Fields” section, you can also decide to search in the description of the article or, in the future, “data”, which will be the body of the article once we implement the ability to grab an article off a page. For now, clicking “data” will do nothing. These 3 options are related by searching for the phrase entered by the user in ANY of the selected boxes – it is not necessary that the phrase appear in all of the boxes.

In the “Restrict by Fields” section, you can narrow your search by finding ONLY favorite or hidden articles. Unlike the first section, it is required that these match.

Clicking on “Restrict by Sources” will open a list of all current sources, and gives the ability to narrow your search to specific ones. This will default to searching all sources.

“Date range” can be selected by clicking on the calendar icon at the right of each box. It will search in the subset of articles up to, but not including, the given date.

Known bugs: None

**The View widget:**

This gives 4 options –the normal view (all but hidden articles), list of all articles, favorite articles, or hidden articles. Additionally, there is a link to “update articles” which will download all new articles from the feeds in your list. This is only temporary because the ultimate plan is to have this happen automatically. Also, it takes awhile (usually 20-30 seconds), so sometimes the request will time out (since Heroku is hosting for free, after all).

Known bugs: If a feed is unavailable when you click on “update articles”, it will generate an error

**The Feeds Widget:**

This shows the list of feeds that the app is currently following, and allows feeds to be created or edited. It's a little cramped, so it's being reworked.

Known bugs: none

Since this version, I've been adding "list" functionality. Essentially, the "feeds" widget will be changed to a "lists" widget where you can select which list of feeds you want to view articles from (and this will have an option to view all feeds simultaneously). A separate page allows creation of lists and feeds, and you can drag a feed and drop it in any number of lists. These lists could be "Local News", "Technology", "Sports", or whatever the user chooses. I think this will definitely help get rid of some of the clutter of unrelated articles.

Also, I've started extracting text from each article's site. Currently, the app is getting the entire page and saving it in the database. I have code which will remove all unnecessary things from a page and leave just the text. I am currently building the bridge between the two and hope to have that done this week. At that point, we will start implementing a clustering algorithm.

Finally, the visual design right now is aimed to be functional rather than attractive, but I plan to meet with our graphics expert at some point to work on that.