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If you'd like to make some meaningful contribution towards improving this help document, please feel free to contact me through the feedback.

This is the help page for version 2.n. If you are using an earlier version of Wizz RSS, you can find help for versions 0.5.0 to 1.1.3 here, and for versions prior to 0.5.0, help can be found here.

With each new release of Wizz RSS that includes new features, this page will be updated to reflect any help that may be required when using the new features. So please get into the habit of looking at this page every time you install a new version, as it may contain some useful information.

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# Introduction

The concepts of RSS (Really Simple Syndication), as the name implies, are actually really very simple. RSS is nothing more than XML in a specific format (Actually a few different formats but I'm not going to get into that. Of course the same also applies to Atom). If you'd like to learn a bit more about RSS, Atom, Podcasting etc., I have provided a few links in the menu under What is?

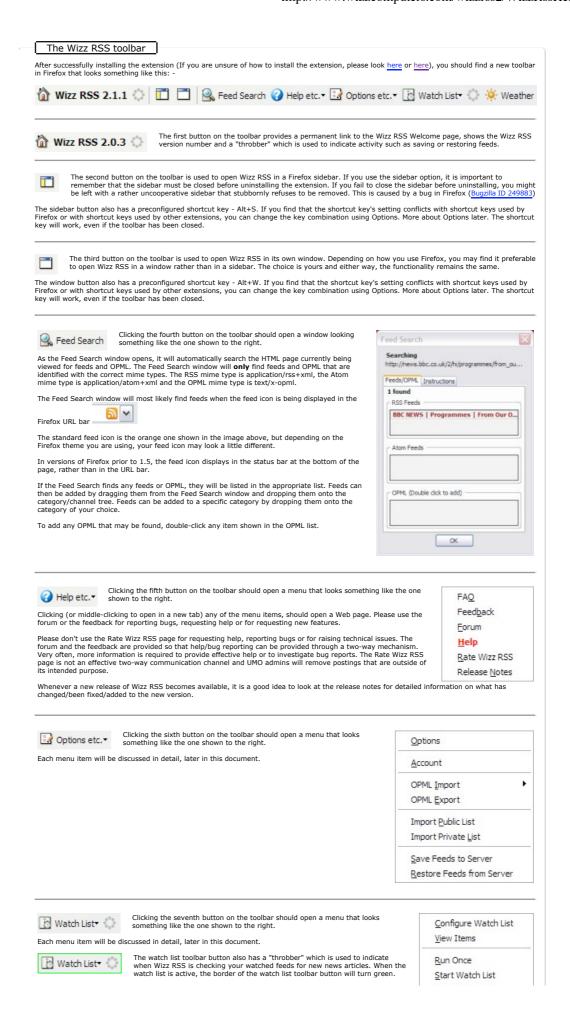
So now that you know a bit about RSS and Atom, what does the XML actually look like? Following are a few links to live RSS feeds: -

- SPACE.com
- BBC Science

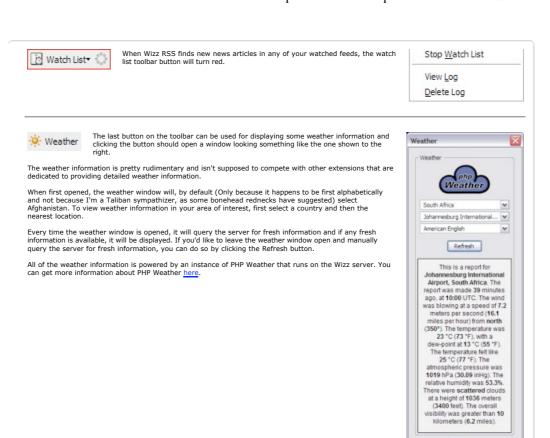
So what role does Wizz RSS News Reader play in all of this?

Wizz RSS News Reader is only one of many available news reader clients or news reader aggregators. In very simple terms it is a piece of software that sits between you (The reader) and that ugly XML. The news reader client/software attempts to turn that ugly XML into something that is "human friendly", providing easy access to the data presented in the XML and to any of the information linked to it.

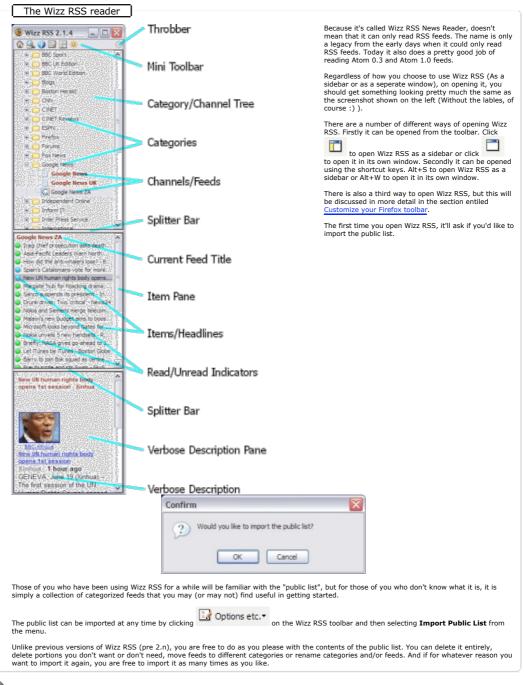




OK



Go to top



Go to top

# Adding categories Within the context of Wizz RSS a category is exactly the same as a bookmark folder and it is simply a mechanism for the logical grouping of channels/feeds. If you'd rather not categorize your feeds, the choice is entirely yours. Adding a root category To add a category to the root (Root = topmost level) of the Category/Channel tree, first click on an empty part of the tree (See image to the right) and then right-click on the empty part of the tree. □ Private List ABC News Atom Test After right-clicking the empty part of the tree, select **Add Category** from the context menu and you should get a window loooking something like the one shown below. BBC World Edition ⊕ ☐ Firefox Add Category ⊕ C Test ? Category Name ⊕ 🗀 Wizz Public List OK Cancel Supply a category name and click the **OK** button. Click Here To add a sub-category, right-click an existing category in the Category/Channel tree and select **Add Category** from the context menu. Supply a category name and click the **OK** button. The new category will be added to the the existing category as a sub-category. Using Bookmarks Manager You can also use the Firefox Bookmark Manager to add categories (The Firefox Bookmark Manager calls them folders but it's exactly the same thing). In fact you can use the Firefox Bookmark Manager to manage almost every aspect of your feed list. If you don't know how to use the Firefox Bookmark Manager, sorry, supplying help on that topic goes beyond the scope of this document.



## Adding feeds

For some-or-other reason many people seem to have difficulty adding feeds. It is actually a really simple process and hopefully this section will help to explain the process for those having difficulty.

Wizz RSS will only handle URLs that point at a valid XML that conforms to either the RSS, RDF or Atom standard. If you try to add a feed that points to anything other than a valid RSS, RDF or Atom XML, Wizz RSS will give you an error.

If you'd like to learn more about RSS, Atom, Podcast feeds, etc., please look at the What Is? menu item on the menu bar at the top of this page. If you'd like to validate problematic feeds, please use the Feed Validator web site.

#### Adding feeds the easy way

The easiest way to add feeds is simply to drag them off the browser page and drop them onto the Category/Channel tree.

To identify what can be added using drag and drop is also very easy. Just look out for icons on web pages that look something like this: -

or XML or FOD or RSS or or RTOM FEED or RSS 1.0 or... There are too many to show all of them here and many sources don't even use an icon. So also be on the lookout for links simply labeled RSS or Atom.

If you don't know how to drag and drop, here is a quick lesson

- Push the mouse button down on the icon or link and don't let go! i.e. Hold the mouse button down.
   While still holding the mouse button down, move the mouse over the Category/Channel tree.
   Now, let go of the mouse button.

To add a feed to a particular category, simply drop the dragged feed onto that category. If you don't want to add the feed to a category, drop it onto an empty part of the tree (i.e. Below the tree item listings) and it will be added to the root of the tree.

When you add a feed using drag and drop, Wizz RSS will automatically try to validate the feed. If the feed is valid, Wizz RSS will automatically obtain a name for the feed and it will be added to the Category/Channel tree.

#### Adding feeds the hard way

Right-click on any category in the Category/Channel tree and you should get a context menu looking something like the one shown on the right. Click the **Add Channel** menu option and you should get a window looking something like the one shown below.



Supply a Channel Name (Feed name) and a Channel URL (Feed URL) and click the **Add Channel** button. Wizz RSS will try to verify the feed at the supplied URL and if it is happy, the channel will be added to the Category/Channel tree.

To add a feed to the root of the Category/Channel tree, first click on an empty part of the tree (i.e. Below the tree item listings) and then right-click on the empty part of the tree and then follow the same steps as laid out



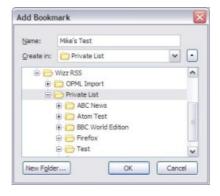
# Adding feeds the "not recommended" way

You can also use the Firefox context menu to add feeds. The reason for not recommending this way of adding feeds is because no verification is done when a feed is added. If you are confident that you are adding a valid feed, right click the link and select **Bookmark This Link** from the Firefox context menu and you should get a window looking something like the one shown on the right.

Firefox will fill the **Name** field with a value which you can change before adding the feed. From the **Create in** drop-down, make sure that you select the Wizz RSS folder and click the **OK** button. In this case the feed will be added to the root of the Category/Channel tree. If you want to add the feed to a sub-folder, make sure that you select the correct sub-folder from the **Create in** drop-down. If you have difficulty



finding the correct folder, click the button which will open the bookmarks tree structure. You'll then be able to easily select the folder you are



Using Feed Search to add feeds

Since version 2.1.0 it has also been possible to add feeds using the Feed Search button. Please see the <u>Feed Search button</u> section of this document for more information.



# Shortcut Keys

This section of the help will be updated as more shortcut keys are added. Following is a full list of shortcut keys that are currently available: -

Alt + S = Default shortcut for opening Wizz RSS in a sidebar. This shortcut is configuarable. See options for more information on how to change it.

Alt + W = Default shortcut for opening Wizz RSS in a window. This shortcut is configuarable. See options for more information on how to change it.

Alt + T = Open selected item in a new tab.

Alt + P = Preview all items.

Alt + R = Mark all items as read.

Alt + U = Mark all items as unread.

Alt + M = Mark selected item as read.

Alt + I = Mark selected item as unread.

Alt + S = Share selected item via email.

Alt + F = Filter items.

Alt + C = Clear items.

## Category/Channel Tree Shortcuts

Alt + A = Add Category.

Alt + C = Add Channel.

Alt + S = Share via Email.

Alt + N = Rename.

Alt + D = Delete.

Alt + R = Mark as Read.

Alt + B = Mark as Unread.

Alt + G = Search Google.

Alt + G = Search Google.

Alt + W = Add to Watch List.

Alt + P = Channel Properties.



## Usage outlined

#### Reading feeds

Each time a feed in the Cateory/Channel tree is clicked, Wizz RSS will request the feed XML from the remote host. When the remote host responds, Wizz RSS will process the XML and display any news items it finds in the Item Pane.

A green dot to the left of an item indicates that it has not been read.

A red dot (The default colour is red. If you'd like to change it, please see the Options section of this document) to the left of an item indicates that the item has been read.

An orange dot only applies to enclosure items and indicates that it has been partly read. i.e. The enclosure has been viewed/listened to but the item has not been viewed (Or vise versa). If both the Item Link and the Enclosure Link have been followed, an enclosure item will also indicate that it has been read.

**PLEASE NOTE!** Wizz RSS uses the Firefox history to determine if an item has been read or not. If you have disabled Firefox's history all items will always have a green dot to the left.

#### Previewing an item

To preview an item, hover the mouse over that item in the Item Pane, and a verbose description will be displayed in the lowermost pane. The verbose description is derived from the feed itself, so if Wizz RSS displays "No Description", it means that that particular item didn't contain a description in the XML.

#### Viewing an item

Shortcut key to open item in a new tab - Alt + T

To view the full article, simply click the item and it should load in your Firefox window. **To view the full article in a new Firefox tab**, simply middle-click the item, or right-click the item and select **Open in New Tab** from the context menu. Podcast feeds work slighly differently, but you can read about that in the <u>Podcast feeds</u> section of this document.

#### Marking an item as read/unread

Shortcut key to mark an item as read - Alt + M Shortcut key to mark an item as unread - Alt + I

Right-click the item (In the Item Pane) you want to mark and select either Mark This Item as Read or Mark This Item as Unread from the

PLEASE NOTE! Wizz RSS uses the Firefox history to determine if an item has been read or not. If you have disabled Firefox's history, this will not work

#### Marking all items as read/unread

Shortcut key to mark all items as read - Alt + R Shortcut key to mark all items as unread - Alt + U

Right-click anywhere on the Item Pane and select either Mark All Items as Read or Mark All Items as Unread from the context menu.

PLEASE NOTE! Wizz RSS uses the Firefox history to determine if an item has been read or not. If you have disabled Firefox's history, this will not

## Marking a feed as read/unread

Shortcut key to mark a feed as read - Alt + R Shortcut key to mark a feed as unread - Alt + U

Right-click the feed (In the Category/Channel tree) you want to mark and select either **Mark as Read** or **Mark as Unread** from the context menu. All items in the feed will be marked as read or unread.

PLEASE NOTE! Wizz RSS uses the Firefox history to determine if an item has been read or not. If you have disabled Firefox's history, this will not work

## Marking a category as read/unread

Shortcut key to mark a category as read - Alt + R Shortcut key to mark a category as unread - Alt + U

Right-click the category (In the Category/Channel tree) you want to mark and select either Mark as Read or Mark as Unread from the context menu. All items in all feeds in that category will be marked as read or unread.

PLEASE NOTE! Wizz RSS uses the Firefox history to determine if an item has been read or not. If you have disabled Firefox's history, this will not used.

## Deleting categories and feeds

Shortcut key to delete a category or feed - Alt + D  $\,$ 

To delete a category or feed, right-click the category or feed and select **Delete** from the context menu. Wizz RSS will ask you to confirm the deletion. If you confirm the deletion by clicking the **OK** button, the category or feed will be removed.

**WARNING!** Deleting a category will delete ALL of the feeds in that category. It will also delete ALL sub-categories and ALL feeds contained in those sub-categories.

# Renaming categories and feeds

Shortcut key to rename a category or feed - Alt + R

To rename a category or feed (i.e. Change the name of a category or feed as it appears in the Category/Channel tree), right-click the category or feed and select **Rename** from the context menu. Wizz RSS will ask you for a new name and if you confirm the renaming by clicking the **OK** button, the category or feed will be renamed.

# Rearranging categories and feeds

Categories and feeds can be moved around within the Category/Channel tree by using drag and drop. If you don't know how to drag and drop, please see the <u>Adding feeds the easy way</u> section of this document.

To move a feed from one category to another, simply drag it from its current category and drop it into the new category. Feeds can also be dragged from the root and dropped into a category, or dragged from a category and dropped into the root.

To move a sub-category from one category to another, simply drag it from its current category and drop it into the new category. Categories can also be dragged from the root and dropped into a category, or dragged from a category and dropped into the root. Moving a category will also move all of its feeds and sub-categories.

For changing the order in which feeds and/or sub-categories appear in a category, please see the Sorting the Category/Channel tree section of this document.

#### Changing the URL of a feed

Shortcut key to edit the URL of a feed - Alt +  ${\sf E}$ 

From time to time you might find that the publisher of a feed changes the name or location of the feed. When this happens, you don't need to re-add the feed, you can simply update the feed so that its URL points to the correct XML.

To change the URL of a feed, right-click the feed and select **Edit Channel URL** from the context menu. Wizz RSS will prompt you for a new URL. After changing the existing URL, click the **OK** button. After clicking the **OK** button it is probably a good idea to make sure that the feed works. If it doesn't work, make sure that the changed URL is correct and change it again if necessary.

## Previewing all items

Shortcut key to preview all items - Alt + P

Previewing all items is a bit like <u>Previewing an item</u>, except that it shows a preview of all items in the feed. To preview all items, right-click anywhere on the Item Pane and select **Preview All** from the context menu. You should get a window looking something like the one shown to the right.

From the Preview All window you can view the full news article by clicking on its title. Clicking the title of a preview item should cause Wizz RSS to behave in the same way as clicking the item in the Item Pane would.

Since version 2.1.0 the Preview All window displays 24 feed previews at a time. The Preview All window also allows you to step forward or backward through the feed previews, 24 at a time.



## Sorting the Category/Channel tree

Sorting of the Category/Channel (or Folder/Feed if you like) tree follows the same sorting as is currently set for your Firefox bookmarks. To change the sorting, click **Bookmarks** > **Manage Bookmarks** on the Firefox menu bar. On the Bookmarks Manager window menu bar click **View** and select the type of sorting you would like to apply, from the drop-down menu.

## Searching Google

Shortcut key to search Google - Alt + G

The **Search Google** function can be accessed from the Category/Channel tree context menu and it is a domain specific search. The **Search Google** function will only be available on the context menu when right-clicking a feed. Right-clicking, for example, one of the BBC feeds should display a window looking something like the one shown to the right.

Supply a search string (search criterion or whatever you'd like to call it) in the input field and click the **OK** button. Search results will be displayed in the current tab of the Firefox window.



# Searching Feedster

Shortcut key to search Feedster - Alt + F

The **Search Feedster** function can be accessed from the Category/Channel tree context menu. The **Search Feedster** function only searches Feedster and thus is accessable from the context menu when clicking anywhere on the Category/Channel tree.

The search string input window looks pretty much the same as the one used for the <u>Search Google</u> function. Supply a search string (search criterion or whatever you'd like to call it) in the input field and click the **OK** button. Search results will be displayed in the current tab of the Firefox window.

## Channel properties

Shortcut key to view channel properties - Alt + P

If you'd like to examine the properties of a particular feed, right-click the feed and select **Channel Properties** from the context menu. The Channel Properties window (Shown to the right) doesn't display an exhaustive list of all properties, but rather lists some of the common properties.



On the Channel Properties window you can click (Or middle-click to open in a new tab) the **Channel XML URL** link to view the actual XML behind the feed. You can also click (Or middle-click to open in a new tab) the **Channel Home URL** link to view the home page of the feed, as published in the feed itself.



#### Filtering Items

Shortcut key to filter items - Alt + F

Since version 2.1.0 it has been possible to filter the items listed in the Item Pane. To filter the listed items, simply right-click anywhere on the Item Pane and chose **Filter Items** from the context menu. Wizz RSS will then prompt you to supply a filter. The filter is simply a list of space or amphasand separated words. Filtering is not cases sensitive and this is (More-or-less) how it works: -

For example, if you supply the filter **cheese king**, only items containing either **cheese** or **king** will be shown in the list. If you supply the filter **cheese&king**, only items that contain the phrase **cheese king** will be shown in the list. If filtering doesn't find any items that match your filter, a message will be displayed, and the full, unfiltered, list of items will be displayed.

To perform multiple filter operations, it **isn't** necessary to reload the items. Even if the full list of items is not being displayed, the full list of items will be filtered.

#### Reloading Items

Shortcut key to reload items - Alt + L

Since version 2.1.0 it has been possible to reload the items listed in the Item Pane. To reload items, simply right-click anywhere on the Item Pane and chose **Reload Items** from the context menu. This is particularly useful if you have filtered the list and then want to redisplay all the items.

PLEASE NOTE! Reloading items does not requery the remote host.

#### **Clearing Items**

Shortcut key to clear items - Alt +  ${\sf C}$ 

Since version 2.0.9 it has been possible to clear all items listed in the Item Pane. To clear all items, simply right-click anywhere on the Item Pane and chose **Clear Items** from the context menu.

PLEASE NOTE! Clearing items is an irrevocable action.



## The Quick Read function

Arguably, one of the most useful yet least known about functions in Wizz RSS is the Quick Read function.

It works in pretty much the same way as Adding feeds the easy way works, but rather than dropping the feed on the Category/Channel tree, drop it anywhere on the Item Pane. The dropped feed will be processed in the same way as clicking a feed in the Category/Channel tree, with the only real difference being, it isn't added to your list of feeds.

It is particularly useful if you want to test a feed or have a look at its content before adding it.



## Podcast feeds

A Podcast feed is a RSS feed that includes an enclosure link (Usually) to some-or-other multi-media file. Wizz RSS News Reader should automatically detect the enclosure and will behave slightly differently from usual. When clicking an item that contains an enclosure, the following popup menu should be displayed.

Clicking the **Item Link** option will take you to the page you would usually see (As if the item didn't have an enclosure link), and clicking the **Enclosure Link** option will take you to the multi-media file. If you have followed one link and not the other, the read indicator will display partially read. i.e.

Item Link
Enclosure Link
Save File
Copy Enclosure Link Location

· 0000

2 ×

Save

The Save File option allows the enclosure to be saved, rather than trying to present the enclosure, as the Enclosure Link option does.

Clicking the **Save File** option should open a save file dialog looking something like the one shown to the right. Of course the exact look of the save file dialog will depend on your operating system. The images for this help page were captured on a Windows XP PC, so if you are also running Windows XP, your save file dialog should look pretty much the same.

In the save file dialog you can select a folder in which to save the enclosure and you can select a file name. The file name will already be filled with a default file name which is derived from the enclosure being saved, but of course you can change the default file name.

After selecting a folder and a file name, click the save button and you should get a window looking something like the one shown below on the right.

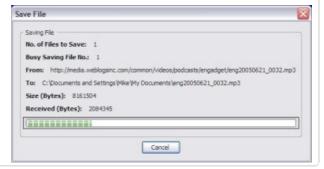
This window indicates the source of the enclosure being saved, the destination (that you selected in the save file dialog) of the saved enclosure, the size of the enclosure file and the number of bytes that have been received. The progress bar near the bottom of the window will give an indication of the percentage that has been received.

If you decide to abort the save, simple click the Cancel button and only the part of the enclosure that has been received will be saved (For the technically minded who are going to get nit-picky: aborting the save might not save everything that has been received, due to the fact that the receive buffer is not flushed). When the save has been completed, the window should close automatically.

You can also use the <u>Watch List</u> to get Wizz RSS to automatically check podcast feeds and to save any new enclosures to a specified folder.

PLEASE NOTE! The presentation of the multi-media file depends entirely on your Firefox configuration. If the multi-media files doesn't present correctly, it is not because of bugs in Wizz RSS News Reader.

To render the multi-media file in Firefox, the simplest thing is to install the QuickTime plug-in for Firefox. You can find the QuickTime plugin <a href="https://example.com/here">here</a>



Save in: My Docum

My Recent Documents

0



## Context menus

Rather than reinventing the wheel, here is a definition of context menus that I copied from Wikipedia (Full article): -

The term context menu is commonly used for menus which pop up when clicking an item in a graphical user interface, offering a list of options which vary depending on the context of the action, the application running, and the item selected. These menus are typically invoked with a secondary mouse button (usually the right-hand button) on a computer running an operating system such as Microsoft Windows, Mac OS X or Unix running the X Window System. Computers with a single-button mouse may use a keyboard-click combination, as with a Control-click in the Macintosh OS. PC keyboards with Microsoft Windows keys also have an additional menu key that opens context menus in Microsoft Windows applications.

Wizz RSS has a few different context menus and, as the above definition defines, their content and function changes according to the context in which they are used. Examples of most (If not all) of the context menus used by Wizz RSS are shown in this document.



## The Watch List

The Watch List is a mechanism for periodically monitoring channels/feeds. There is a common misconception that RSS/Atom enables some sort of "push" (push meaning that data is fed to you from a remote source) mechanism. Of course there is no "push", and checking feeds for new content requires "pull" (pull meaning that data needs to be requested from a remote source). The terms "feed" and "subscribe/subscription" tend to fuel the "push" misconception, hence the reason for my often using the equally correct, but less misleading term, channel. In this document channel = feed and feed = channel.

So in terms of "push" and "pull", the Watch list is Wizz RSS' automated "pull" mechanism.

#### Adding feeds to the Watch List

Shortcut key to add categories/feeds to the Watch List - Alt + W

Right-click (Or whatever the Mac equivalent of a right-click is) on any category or channel and you should get a menu looking something like the one shown on the right. Clicking **Add to Watch List** will then add the feed or category.

When adding a category, Wizz RSS will look for feeds in that category and all of those feeds will be added to the Watch List. If the category doesn't contain any feeds, nothing will be added to the Watch List. Wizz RSS will not add feeds contained in any sub-categories. This behaviour is by design.



#### Configuring the Watch List

To configure the Watch List, click on the toolbar and then select **Configure Watch List** from the <u>Watch List menu</u>. After clicking **Configure Watch List**, you should get a <u>window looking something</u> like the one shown to the right.

The Watch List window allows various configuration actions, each of which is discussed in detail below.



## Starting the Watch List automatically

If the Automatically start Watch List checkbox is checked, the Watch List should start automatically when Firefox is started. The first watch List watch is delayed for about 60 seconds after Firefox starts. The 60 second delay is by design and is to allow Firefox (And any other installed extensions) the time to do whatever it has to do, without interfering with the "normal" startup process.

You must have added at least one feed to your watch list for the automatic Watch List start to work. If there are no feeds for the Watch List to watch, it will automatically disable itself.

# Running the Watch List once

Selecting **Run Once** from the Watch List menu will cause the Watch List to run immediately and it will only run once. **Run Once** will only work if the Watch List is currently inactive.

## Starting the Watch List

Selecting **Start Watch List** from the <u>Watch List menu</u> will cause the Watch List to run immediately and will put the Watch List into an active state. When the Watch List is active, the feeds in your watch list will be checked for new news items every "interval" minutes. i.e. If you have set the Watch List interval to 10 minutes, the Watch List will check for new news items every 10 minutes.

 $If the \ Watch \ List \ is \ already \ active, \ selecting \ \textbf{Start Watch List} \ from \ the \ \underline{Watch \ List \ menu} \ will \ cause \ an \ error \ message \ to \ be \ displayed.$ 

You must have added at least one feed to your watch list for **Start Watch List** to work. If there are no feeds for the Watch List to watch, it will automatically disable itself.

## Stopping the Watch List

Selecting **Stop Watch List** from the <u>Watch List menu</u> will cause the Watch List to be deactivated. The Watch List can only be stopped from the window in which it was started. Closing the window in which the Watch List is active will also cause the Watch List to be deactivated.

#### Viewing the Watch List log

Since version 2.1.1 it has been possible to enable Watch List logging. The logging is pretty rudimentary and it logs things like the date and time that the watch started, the date and time that the watch ended, the feeds that were checked, any errors that were encountered and any new items or enclosures that were found. If any watched feeds have an action of save, the path of the saved file will also be logged.

Selecting **View Log** from the <u>Watch List menu</u> will cause the Watch List log to be displayed. Middle-clicking **View Log** will cause the Watch List log to be displayed on a new tab.

#### Deleting the Watch List log

If Watch List logging is enabled, it is possible for the log file to get pretty huge. So if you'd like to delete the log file, select **Delete Log** from the Watch List menu.

#### The watch interval

The watch interval is the amount of time, in minutes, that Wizz RSS waits before checking each feed in the Watch List for new news items.

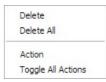
#### Changing the watch interval

If the Watch List is active, it is important that you first stop it before changing the watch interval. Stop the Watch List by clicking **Stop Watch List** on the Watch List menu. Select a new interval from the **Interval** drop-down, and then restart the Watch List by clicking **Start Watch List** on the Watch List menu.

#### Removing feeds from the Watch List

In the Watch List window right-click the feed you want to remove. Right-clicking the feed should produce a context menu looking something like the one shown on the right. Click **Delete** and the feed should disappear. It isn't necessary to deactivate the Watch List when deleting channels.

Since version 2.1.0 it has also been possible to remove all feeds from the Watch List by clicking the **Delete All** 



## Watch List Action

Each feed in the Watch List can have one of two different actions. When a feed is added to the Watch List, by default, it is assigned the **Notify** action. To change a feed's action, right-click the feed and select **Action** from the menu. Selecting **Action** will toggle the channel's action from **Notify** to **Save** or from **Save** to **Notify**.

Since version 2.1.0 it has been possible to toggle the action of all feeds in the Watch List by clicking the Toggle All Actions context menu option

An Action of Notify will have the following effect: If the Watch List finds any unread items (Wizz RSS uses Firefox history to determine if an item has been read or not) that don't already exist in the watch list items cache, the item will be added to the cache and you will be "told" that new

items have been found. Being "told" involves changing the border of the Watch List button to red

Watch List

Watch List

Watch List

Watch List

and displaying the View

Items menu option in bold. Since version 2.0.4 you can also get Wizz RSS to optionally display a JavaScript alert when new items are found. This makes it possible to surf the Wizz RSS toolbar hidden and still be sure that you will receive notifications.

An Action of Save will have the following effect: If the Watch List finds any unread items (Wizz RSS uses Firefox history to determine if an item has been read or not) the HTML (Only the HTML is saved. No images or CSS is/are saved. In the case of enclosures, the entire file is saved.) of the new item will be saved to the Save Path specified in the Watch List window. The item will also be marked as read so that saving duplicates is hopefully avoided. WARNING - If your Firefox history is disabled, marking the item as read will be ineffectual and you'll end up with loads of duplicates.

Subdirectories will automatically be created when items are saved and the subdirectories will be named to indicate the domain from which its files originated. e.g. The HTML file obtained from http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/4523766.stm will be saved into the subdirectory news.bbc.co.uk. The filename of saved files will optionally be prefixed with the time (Number of milliseconds since 1 January 1970).

The Save Action is particularly useful if you want to monitor Podcast feeds.

While the watch list is busy saving, you should see a window looking something like the one shown below. The window should close automatically once all files have been saved.



#### Setting the Save Path

The Save Path only applies to Watch List items that have an action of **Save** and determines where the saved files will be put. The default Save Path points to your Firefox profile folder, so it's a very good idea to change it. To change the Save Path, click the "..." button in the Watch List window and you should get a window looking something like the one shown to the right: -

Select a suitable path and click the **OK** button. Click the **OK** button in the **Watch List** window to ensure that the **Save Path** is saved.



# Viewing (Or listening to) saved items

Wizz RSS doesn't contain any mechanism for displaying saved HTML or for playing back saved enclosures. So viewing and/or listening to saved items is up to you and how your operating system is configured (Usually it would be enough to simply double click on a saved item). In the case of saved enclosures, you can set the **Save Path** to save files to a location where the software that writes files to your mobile media player (assuming that your mobile media player requires software) can find them.

#### Viewing "Notify" items

If the Watch List finds new items in feeds that have an Action of Notify, the border

around the Watch List button will turn red your options are set, Wizz RSS might also popup a JavaScript alert. To view the new items that the Watch List has found, click the Watch List button on the Wizz RSS toolbar and select **View Items** from the Watch List menu, Clicking **View Items** should turn the

border around the Watch List button back to green Watch List and it should be one shown to the right.

The Items window works in pretty much the same way as the items portion of the Wizz RSS window/sidebar works. Hovering the mouse over an item will display its verbose description in the lowermost pane. Clicking an item should display the full news article in your browser window. Middle clicking an item will display the full news article on a new tab in your browser window. However, there is one major exception: The Items window ONLY displays unread items. i.e. If you read a few items and then close the Items window, on reopening the Items window, the items you have already read will not be on the list.

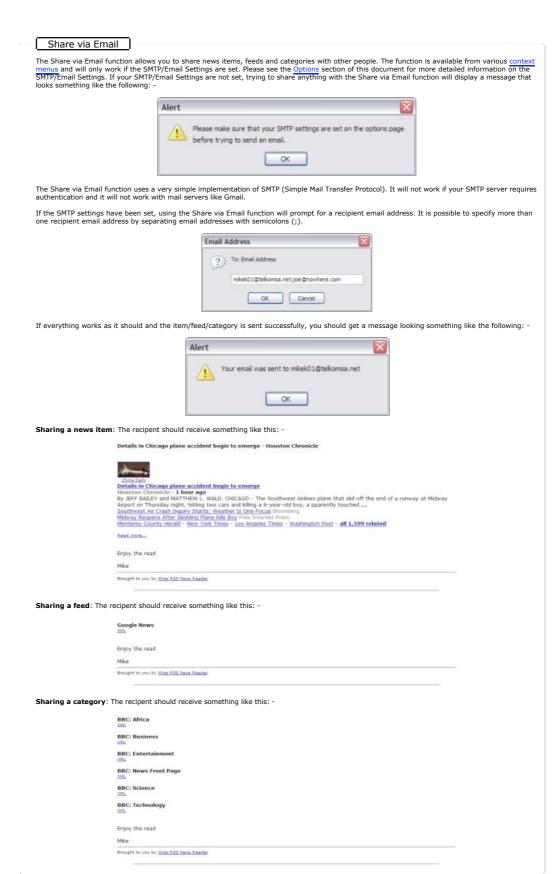


## Clearing the Cache

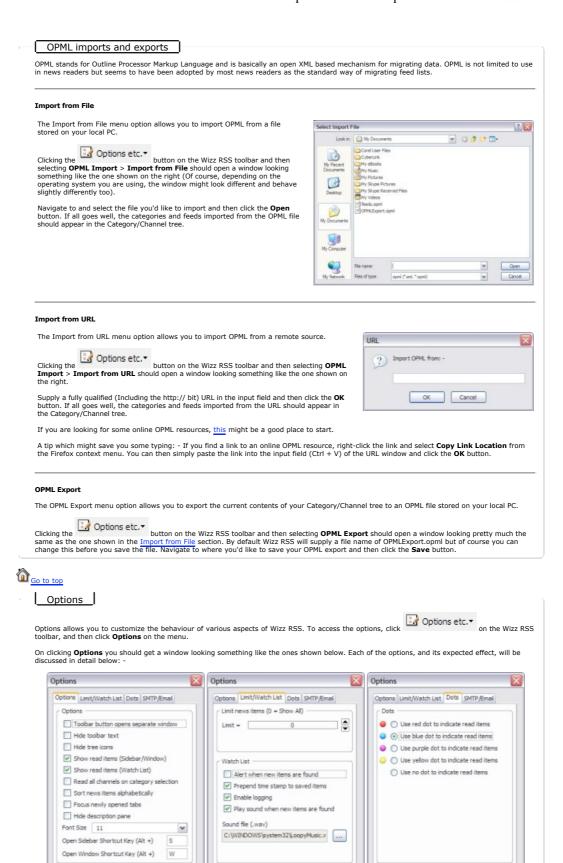
Strictly speaking it isn't a cache but rather a file that contains a reference to any new news items found by the Watch List. Each time the Watch List finds unread news items, they are appended to the cache. So as I'm sure you can imagine, the file could get quite large after a while.

To clear out the cache, just click the **Clear Cache** button at the bottom of the Items window.









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OK

OK

OK



## Toolbar button opens separate window

This option applies to the toolbar button. The default value is **not selected**. If the option is not selected, clicking the toolbar button will open Wizz RSS as a sidebar. If the option is selected, clicking the toolbar button will open Wizz RSS in its own window.

## Hide toolbar text

This option applies to the Wizz RSS toolbar. The default value is **not selected**. If the option is not selected the Wizz RSS toolbar will look something like this:

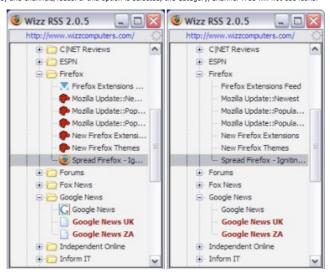


If the option is selected, the Wizz RSS toolbar will look something like this: -



## Hide tree icons

This option applies to the Category/Channel Tree. The default value is **not selected**. If the option is not selected, various icons will be displayed against categories (folders) and channels/feeds. If this option is selected, the Category/Channel Tree will not use icons.



## Show read items (Sidebar/Window)

This option applies to news items listed in the Item Pane. The default value is **selected**. If this option is selected, items that have already been read will still be listed in the Item Pane. If this option is not selected, items that have already been read will not be displayed in the Item Pane.

## Show read items (Watch List)

This option applies to news items listed in the Watch List > View Items window. The default value is **not selected**. If this option is selected, items that have already been read will still be listed in the View Items window. If this option is not selected, items that have already been read will not be displayed in the View Items window.

# Read all channels on category selection

This option applies to categories (folders) in the Category/Channel Tree. The default value is not selected. If this option is not selected, selecting a

category (by clicking on it or by using navigation keys) will have no effect. If this option is selected, selecting a category (by clicking on it or by using navigation keys) will cause Wizz RSS to read all of the feeds in that category. Feeds in sub-categories will not be read and empty categories

Not reading feeds in sub-categories is by design and is done for this reason: clicking on the root category of a tree that contains many categories and sub-categories would send Wizz RSS off on a very lengthy (As in time consuming) process of reading every single feed in the tree. I don't think many people would be happy if this happened.

#### Sort news items alphabetically

This option applies to news items listed in the Item Pane. The default value is **not selected**. If this option is not selected, news items listed in the Item Pane will be listed in the order in which they occur in the feed XML. If this option is selected, items listed in the Item Pane will be sorted alphabetically by headline text.

Apologies to all non-English speaking people if this option doesn't work as described. I have tested the functionality in various languages, but not being able to understand what I have sorted (Especially with languages written right to left) doesn't help much, if you know what I mean?

#### Focus newly opened tabs

This option applies to any link, news article or web page that is opened on a new tab ( Either by middle-clicking or by using the Open in New Tab option from a context menu).

The default value is **not selected**. If this option is not selected, opening a link, news article or web page on a new tab will create the new tab but focus will be retained by whatever part of Wizz RSS currently has the focus. If this option is selected, opening a link, news article or web page on a new tab will create a new tab and focus will be given to the newly created tab. Focusing on the newly created tab will also make it the topmost tab.

#### Hide description pane

This option applies to the Verbose Description pane (The lowermost pane) of the Wizz RSS window/sidebar and the Watch List View Items window.

The default value is **not selected**. If this option is not selected, the Verbose Description pane will be visible and verbose descriptions will be displayed when hovering the mouse over a news item. If this option is not selected, the Verbose Description pane will be hidden and verbose descriptions will not be displayed when hovering the mouse over a news item.

#### Font Size

The default value is 11. Changing the value will accordingly change the font size in the affected areas of Wizz RSS.

This option applies to the shortcut key used to open Wizz RSS in its own window. The default value is  $\mathbf{W}$ . Changing this options value allows you specify a different key combination to be used as the shortcut.

If you choose to change the shortcut key combination, please ensure that it works correctly, without conflicting with any of the shortcut keys used by Firefox or the shortcut keys used by other extensions.

PLEASE NOTE! Changes to this shortcut key require Firefox to be restarted to become effective.

## Open Sidebar Shortcut Key (Alt +)

This option applies to the shortcut key used to open Wizz RSS as a sidebar. The default value is S. Changing this options value allows you specify a different key combination to be used as the shortcut

If you choose to change the shortcut key combination, please ensure that it works correctly, without conflicting with any of the shortcut keys used by Firefox or the shortcut keys used by other extensions.

PLEASE NOTE! Changes to this shortcut key require Firefox to be restarted to become effective.

This option applies to the number of news items listed in the Item Pane. The default value is **0** (Zero). If this option is set to zero, all news items will be listed. If this option is set to any non-zero value, that value of news items will be listed. Of course if a feed contains less items then the limit value, all items will be listed.

To increment the limit value click the button.

To decrement the limit value click the button

This option applies to the Watch List. The default value is **not selected**. If this option is not selected, it will have no effect on the Watch List. If this option is selected, it will cause the Watch List to display an alert when new news items are found.

This option is useful in cases where you want to use the Watch List but want to hide the Wizz RSS toolbar

# Prepend time stamp to saved items

This option applies to Watch List items with an action of Save. The default value is **selected**. If this option is selected, it will cause the time (Number of milliseconds since 1 January 1970) to be prefixed to the file name of saved items. If this option is not selected, the time will not be prefixed to the filename of saved items.

## **Enable Logging**

This option applies to the Watch List. The default value is **not selected**. If this option is not selected, it will have no effect on the Watch List. If this option is selected, it will cause the Watch List to perform rudimentary logging. The log can be accessed using the **View Log** option on the Watch List menu.

## Play sound when new items are found

option applies to the Watch List and allows a user selected sound to be played when the Watch List finds new news items (Audible notification).

The default value is **not selected**. If this option is not selected, no sound will be played when the Watch List finds new news items. If this option is selected, the Watch List will attemn to play the user selected cound file when new news items are found.

To select a sound file, click the "..." button and naviagte to any .WAV file of your choice. At this point in time the Firefox sound API only supports the playing of .WAV files.

#### Dots

The "Dots" section of options allows you to chose the colour of dot you'd like to use for indicating read items. The default colour is red.

#### Use headline as email subject

This option applies to the Share via Email function. The default value is **not selected**. If this option is not selected, emails sent using the Share via Email function will have a subject line something like **Shared news feed from Name**. If this option is selected, emails sent using the Share via Email function will use the headline of the item being shared as its subject line.

In the case where the option is selected and a feed is shared, the name of the feed will be used as the subject line.

In the case where the option is selected and a category is shared, the category name will be used as the subject line.

#### Host Name

This option applies to the Share via Email function. The option has no default value. If you want to use the Share via Email function, you should supply the name (or IP address) of your SMTP server here.

If you don't know the name/IP address of your SMTP server, you should be able to find it in the SMTP settings section of your email client (e.g. Thunderbird, Outlook, Outlook Express, etc.).

#### Port No.

This option applies to the Share via Email function. The default value is **25.** In most cases the default value of 25 should work. If your SMTP server users a port other than port 25, change the value of this option to indicate the correct port number.

If you don't know the port number of your SMTP server, you should be able to find it in the SMTP settings section of your email client (e.g. Thunderbird, Outlook, Outlook Express, etc.).

#### Your Name

This option applies to the Share via Email function. The option has no default value. If you want to use the Share via Email function, you should supply your name here. The name is used to identify to the recipient who the email is from and is also used in the subject line if the **Use headline** as email subject is not selected.

#### Your Email

This option applies to the Share via Email function. The option has no default value. If you want to use the Share via Email function, you should supply your email address here.

A NOTE TO THE PARANOID (Because I just know that somewhere along the line, someone is going to accuse me of harvesting email addresses, or something just as stupid!) - Wizz RSS ONLY stores your SMTP settings on your local PC. These settings are NOT stored on the Wizz Computers server and they are NOT transmitted across any network (Apart from being in emails you might send, which is quite normal).

## Your Sig

This option applies to the Share via Email function. The option has no default value. If you want to use the Share via Email function, you should supply your signature here. The signature can be plain text, HTML or XHTML and is automatically appended to each email you send.



#### Other items on the Options etc. drop-down menu

The **Options etc.** drop-down menu is accessed by clicking the discussed in detail <a href="here">here</a> and the **OPML imports and exports** menu items are discussed in detail <a href="here">here</a>. The other menu items are discussed in detail here. The other menu items are discussed in detail below.

#### Account

Clicking Account on the Options etc. drop-down menu should open a window looking something like the one shown to the right:

To create a new account, supply a User Name and Password in the relevant fields and click the **Create Account** button. Wizz RSS requires a unique user name for each account. If the user name you supply is already in use, Wizz RSS will notify you and ask you to use a different user name.

If you already have an account, simply supply your User Name and Password in the relevant

If the **Save Wizz RSS Password** checkbox is checked, Wizz RSS will save your password and it will be visible, in plain text, on the Firefox about:config page. If the **Save Wizz RSS Password** checkbox is not checked, Wizz RSS will prompt you to supply your password whenever it is needed.

If you forget your password, please don't ask me to retrieve it for you because I will simply ignore your request.

To change your password: - If your password is saved (i.e. The **Save Wizz RSS Password** checkbox is checked), leave your existing password in the Password field and Wizz RSS will prompt your for a new password. If your password is changed sucessfully, Wizz RSS will notify you and will also update the password field to the new one. If your password is not saved (i.e. The **Save Wizz RSS Password** checkbox is not checked), Wizz RSS will prompt you for your existing password and then will prompt you for your existing password and then will prompt you for your new password. If your password is changed sucessfully, Wizz RSS will notify you.

PLEASE NOTE! You only need to create an account if you plan to use the Save Feeds to Server and Restore Feeds from Server functions.



#### Import Public List

Firstly, the term Public List might be a bit misleading. The term is a just a legacy from the early days of Wizz RSS and it is nothing more than a collection of categorized feeds. Those of you who are new to the world of RSS and Atom might find the Public List useful. If you'd like to import the Public List, simply click the **Import Public List** item on the **Options etc.** drop-down menu. If you don't like what is in the Public List, delete it (Or delete only those bits you don't want), but please don't go off on some silly pusdo-intellectual witch-hunt looking for hidden agendas! I don't have any agendas, hidden or otherwise, apart from trying to live each day as happily and peacefully as I can. Oh! And world domination of course!

#### **Import Private List**

The Import Private List function will only be useful to those of you who used Wizz RSS prior to ver. 2.0.n. If you know what the Private List is, then you'll know what I'm talking about. If you don't know what the Private List is, don't worry about it.

To import your Private List, first ensure that your User Name and Password are set correctly in the Account window, then click the Import Private List menu item on the Options etc. drop-down menu.

## Save Feeds to Server

In a nutshell, the **Save Feeds to Server** function replaces the Private List of earlier version of Wizz RSS. You need an Account to use the **Save Feeds to Server** function.

The Save Feeds to Server function is NOT a synchronization mechanism.

To use the Save Feeds to Server function, first ensure that your User Name and Password are set correctly in the Account window, then click the Save Feeds to Server menu item on the Options etc. drop-down menu.

PLEASE NOTE! The Save Feeds to Server function is broken in ver. 2.0.5. It has however been fixed in 2.0.6

A NOTE TO THE PARANOID (Because I've already been accused of having some insidious plan to harvest every news feed on the Internet) - I honestly couldn't give a damn about what you have in your list of feeds! If you are looking for some sort of privacy statement, you won't find one because there is no point in guaranteeing the privacy of something that ANYONE can obtain in exactly the same way that you did. If you aren't happy about the lack of a privacy statement, the answer is simple: don't use the Save Feeds to Server function!

## Restore Feeds from Server

The Restore Feeds from Server function is just the opposite of the Save Feeds to Server function. You need an Account to use the Restore Feeds

The Resore Feeds from Server function is NOT a synchronization mechanism.

To use the **Restore Feeds from Server** function, first ensure that your User Name and Password are set correctly in the Account window, then click the **Restore Feeds from Server** menu item on the **Options etc.** drop-down menu.

When restoring saved feeds from the server, Wizz RSS will ask (Using a prompt similar to the one shown below) if you'd like to overwrite existing



Clicking the **OK** button will cause all existing information in your Category/Channel tree to be replaced with the information restored from the server. Clicking the **Cancel** button will cause the restored information to be added to existing information in your Category/Channel tree.

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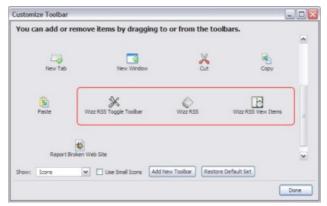
# Customize your Firefox toolbar

Wizz RSS also has three other toolbar buttons that can be added to any Firefox toolbar. Using these three buttons makes it quite convenient if you don't want to use the Wizz RSS toolbar.

The button is used to toggle the Wizz RSS toolbar, the button is used to open the Wizz RSS News Reader and the button is used to open the Watch List View Items window.

You can add any or all of these buttons by following the procedure laid out below:

- Click View on the Firefox menu bar.
  Click Toolbars on the drop-down menu.
  Click Customize on the next menu and you should get a window looking something like the one shown below.



- Drag, one at a time, the Wizz RSS buttons from the Customize Toolbar window and drop them onto any toolbar that will accept them.
   When you have finished, click the **Done** button in the Customize Toolbar window.

The Wizz RSS toolbar buttons can be removed from Firefox toolbars by follwing the same procedure as laid out above, but when the Customize Toolbar window opens, click the **Restore Default Set** button.

Clicking the button should hide the Wizz RSS toolbar if it is showing, or show it if it is hidden.

By default the button will open Wizz RSS as a sidebar. You can modify this behaviour, to open Wizz RSS in its own window, by setting the Toolbar button opens seperate window option. Read more about options in the Options section of this document.

Clicking the button should display the Watch List View Items window



It never fails to amaze me, seeing how many Firefox users there are who will install an extension without having any idea of how to uninstall it.

All Firefox extensions (As far as I am aware) uninstall in exactly the same way. The only thing to remember is: when uninstalling a sidebar extension (Wizz RSS is a sidebar extension), MAKE SURE THAT YOU CLOSE THE SIDEBAR **BEFORE** UNINSTALLING THE EXTENSION.

To uninstall any Firefox extension, follow the steps laid out below: -

- If you are uninstalling a sidebar extension, make sure that the sidebar is closed.
  Click **Tools** on the Firefox menu bar.
  Click **Extensions** on the tools menu and you should get a window looking something like the one shown below.



- From the list of installed extensions, make sure that you select the one you want to uninstall. Click the **Uninstall** button which is usually located in the bottom left corner of the Extensions window. Close **ALL** running instances of Firefox. i.e. Close **ALL** Firefox windows. Restart Firefox and the extension should be gone.

If somehow you managed to miss all the warnings about closing the sidebar before uninstalling the extension, you might be left with an unresponsive sidebar that stubbornly refuses to go away. To remedy the situation, reinstall the extension, close the sidebar and then follow the steps laid out above to uninstall.

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