



RSS AutoPilot v 1.5

Unique content extractor

User Manual

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Overview

RSS AutoPilot is a WordPress plugin capable of downloading Atom and RSS feeds and creating posts in WordPress using either summary provided by the feed or grabbing content directly from a website.

RSS AutoPilot supports Atom 1.0 and RSS 0.91, 0.92, 1.0 and 2.0 standards.

Requirements

RSS AutoPilot requires minimum WordPress 3.8 and PHP 5.3.

Additional requirements are:

- PHP 5.3 or newer (latest 5.6+ or 7.1+ recommended)
- libxml php extension
- MBstring php extension
- XML PHP extensions: DOM and SimpleXML
- cURL or Stream Context (allow_url_fopen=On)
- iconv extension

Installation

Installation process is pretty simple and doesn't differ from a standard installation process of other plugins https://codex.wordpress.org/Managing_Plugins

1. Download **RSS AutoPilot** Plugin to your desktop.
2. Extract the Plugin folder to your desktop.
3. With your FTP program, upload the Plugin folder to the wp-content/plugins folder in your WordPress directory online.
4. Go to Plugins screen and find **RSS AutoPilot** in the list.
5. Click Activate Plugin to activate it.

Alternatively you can upload **RSS AutoPilot** zip package via Plugin Manager in WordPress.

1. Download **RSS AutoPilot** Plugin to your desktop.
2. Go to Plugins screen and click "Add New".
3. On the "Add Plugins" screen click "Upload Plugin"
4. Attach your zip file and click "Install Now".
5. Go to Plugins screen and find **RSS AutoPilot** in the list.
6. Click Activate Plugin to activate it.

Updating plugin

If you already have RSS AutoPilot installed and need to update it to the latest version, you can simply remove plugin through the WP Plugins page and install it once again. Your feeds and imported posts will not be removed.

RSS AutoPilot - All Feeds

You can start using plugin right from this page. Here you can see and control your feeds.

Options that are available to you are as follows:

- You can create new feed by clicking on “Add New”
- Edit any of existing feeds by clicking on it’s title or clicking “Edit” button just below the title
- Manually run feed one time using “Run” button
- Remove posts created by this feed
- Delete feed
- Turn on/off automatic updates

Feeds

Add New

Bulk Actions

Apply

5 items

<<

<

1

>

>>

of 1

<input type="checkbox"/> Title	Automatic updates	Statistics	Author	Date
<input type="checkbox"/> Wylsa feed	Disabled Turn On	Posts imported: 10 Last update: 16 mins ago	vadim	2017/04/30
<input type="checkbox"/> BBC Video	Disabled Turn On	Posts imported: 1 Last update: 4 months ago	vadim	2017/04/30
<input type="checkbox"/> CBC Test	Disabled Turn On	Posts imported: 0 Last update: 4 months ago	vadim	2017/04/30
<input type="checkbox"/> BBC2 Test	Disabled Turn On	Posts imported: 0 Last update: 4 months ago	vadim	2017/04/30
<input type="checkbox"/> BBC Business	Disabled Turn On	Posts imported: 0 Last update: 4 months ago	vadim	2017/04/23

Create a new feed

RSS AutoPilot has lots of features you may need in different cases. Let's go through all of them one by one.

Title - title is just a title for your feed. You can put whatever you want just make sure you can identify it later among other sources.

General Options

This block covers core configuration for your feed:

Feed URL must be a valid RSS or Atom feed.

Default Author is a user that will be used as an publisher/author of every post imported from this particular feed.

WordPress supports various **post types** including custom posts and several **statuses** such as Draft, Pending Review, Private and Published. If you wish to manually review all posts that are imported we would recommend you selecting Pending Review, if you are confident enough, you can make them going straight to the public site by selecting "Published" status. As for the post type, unless you have any specific custom post types, we would recommend you leaving it as is.

Update frequency allows you selecting the frequency for the feed to be checked.

On the right side you can see a couple of useful additional options such as:

Use date from feed - allows your posts to have the same timestamps as the original posts from feed have.

Download images option is useful when you prefer to download and host all images on your server.

Remove links - sometimes you may want to remove any hyperlinks from the post.

Overwrite posts - use this option only when you are absolutely certain you need it. It will overwrite your posts every time the feed is downloaded. It is only helpful when the articles from the original feed are constantly updated. We recommend lowering the number of posts value if your server is not fast enough.

Limit number of posts - some feeds can be ridiculously long containing hundreds of articles. You don't want your server to process them all at once, so you can limit the number of articles to be imported for a single run. Please note, with every new run this option will skip previously added articles unless **Overwrite posts** option is selected.

You can automatically **translate posts** to another language available with Yandex.Translator API <https://tech.yandex.com/translate/>. It is a paid service from Yandex, so you will need to register and put your API key into settings if you need this integration.

Categories

This block lists all categories and allows you selecting corresponding set for all posts from selected feed. However, you should know that there are two default options with specific meaning:

Extract categories from feed (create categories automatically) - as it says, it will extract categories from feed and automatically create those categories in your WordPress assigning newly created posts to corresponding categories.

Extract categories from feed as tags - and this one will do the same thing but all categories will be imported into your WordPress website as tags rather than categories. It can be useful when you already have your own categories structure and want to get some additional tags for your posts.

Content options

This is the last bit of customization, please read descriptions carefully to get maximum from the plugin.

Don't add excerpt - by default, WordPress supports excerpts for posts. These excerpts are often used to display brief post contents in lists.

Limit the number of characters - if excerpts contain too many characters you can limit the number of this box.

Add <!--more--> tag - as you may know, WordPress allows you adding "Read More" tag in order to show the beginning excerpt of your posts (may depend on the Theme). RSS AutoPilot can do it automatically. Once you enable this option, it will propose you entering the number of paragraphs to be displayed before the "Read More".

You can also get your posts slightly modified using **Post Content** options.

First thing is **Display link to source**. If you wish to have a backlink to the original article you can easily do it by enabling this option. You can see a text box beneath that says:

```
<a href=%LINK%>Original Article</a>
```

While the %LINK% is a placeholder that must stay, the rest can be modified. For example, you can make a button out of it or add some classes like that:

```
<a class="btn btn-green" href=%LINK%>Backlink</a>
```

Enable web scraper is one of the most exciting features of RSS AutoPilot. By enabling it you will see a button called "Configure content extractor" and two text boxes underneath. In general use case you don't need to use these text boxes, however, sometimes content extractor may fail to do the job and you may want to enter XPath queries manually. Just remember to separate all of them using | (vertical line).

So, for the normal use case you can do the job using content extractor. First, click on it and you will see an example article from your feed just like on the example below:



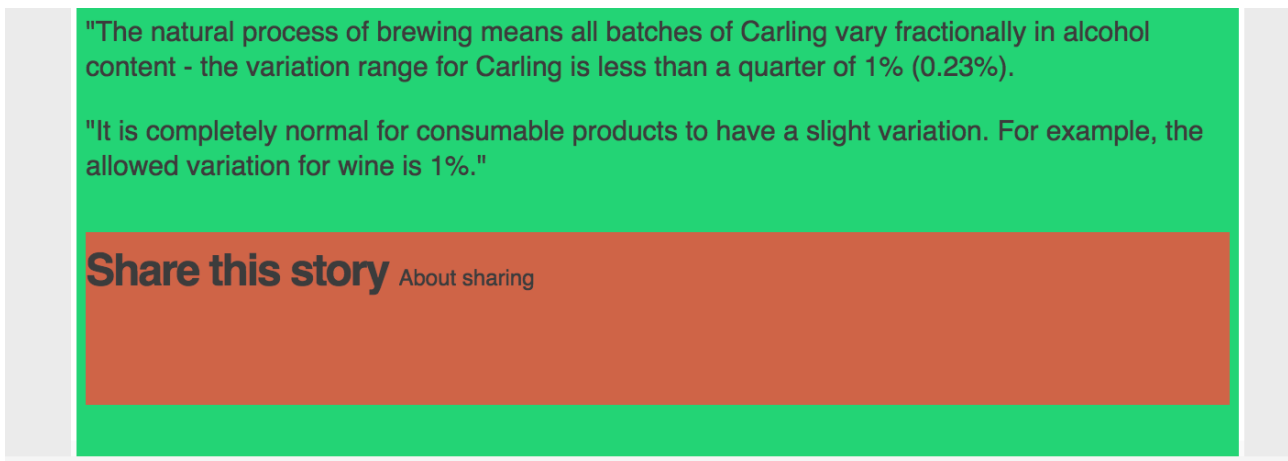
Move your mouse around the page until the article content is surrounded with a blue background with red dashed border like on the example below:



Once you are satisfied with results you can just click on it and it becomes green meaning that it is the selected content:



Sometimes, along with the article there are some other blocks selected and you want them to be removed. Just click on these blocks to mark them red:



In some other situations, you may need to select multiple blocks, in this case you can just click on each block separately without selecting the surrounding block.

Content wrapper is a useful feature when you want all your posts to be surrounded by some additional content. It can be a block before and/or after the article such as a note about the source or some additional graphics or ads. Feel free to leave it empty if you are not going to use it and feel free to put any HTML code you need and add `%CONTENT%` placeholder somewhere inside.

There are several ways to handle **featured images**. By default, none is selected, but if your theme supports featured images you may want to select some other options. Let's go through all of them one by one:

Thumbnail from feed - some feeds already provide you with a good thumbnail, if you are fine with that, you may prefer to use that one.

Image from content - **RSS AutoPilot** can extract a featured image for you directly from the content.

Image from content (and delete) - this one is basically the same as the previous option but it will also remove that image from article content. It is helpful when your theme displays featured image somewhere on the public page and you don't want to have duplicates.

Set image from media library - you can select some image from your media library to be used for all posts.

There is also an option to select some **fallback featured image**. If having featured images is critical for you, you can specify the image to be used as a fallback when none found from the options above.

Sometimes feeds are too broad for your needs, for example if you are writing about racing and don't want anything else from the "sports" feed to go into your website you can enter a couple of keywords any of which must be presented in the article such as: rally, f1, nascar.

You can also add a set of stop words such as if any of these appears in the article the whole article will not be imported.

Finally, the plugin can automatically add canonical URL's to the source articles.

Once you are done configuring your feed, feel free to press "Preview" button to make sure the results meet your expectations.

Settings

For those who are interested to use Yandex.Translator there is a Settings page where you can put your API key. Please make sure you visit <https://tech.yandex.com/translate/> to obtain your key.

Logs page

You may want to investigate issue yourself or report the issue to developers. Logs are almost always helpful in identifying the root cause.